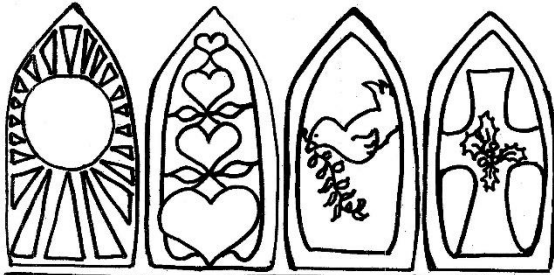




**December 12, 2021**



**Hope | Peace | Joy | Love**

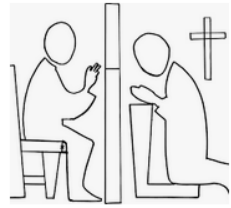
**Reading 1: Genesis 3:9-15, 20** God confronts Adam and Eve after they have eaten of the tree forbidden them by God and curses the serpent for his action.

**Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4** Sing to the Lord for he has done wondrous deeds.

**Reading II: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12** In Christ, we were chosen to be adopted children of God

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel appears to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus, and Mary responds, "Let it be done to me as you say."

**Preparing the Way: Reconciliation in Advent**



*"There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful*

*Father" ~ POPE FRANCIS*

**Tues, Dec. 14 – St. Raphael 7:00 PM**

**Tues, Dec. 21 – Sacred Heart Cathedral 7:00 PM**

**Parish Family During Mass:** Men, women, and teens may serve as Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or in our Choir. Please sign up in advance. **We need you time and talent!** Talk with Fr. Robert Fath, Jim Radigan, or Mary Pat Boger if you have questions. Individuals willing to become choir members or musicians talk to George Stefan.

**SHC Christmas Bazaar raised \$3,416.25. Thank you to all who supported them with donations, purchases, & prayers**

**Hymns for 5:30pm Mass:**

- 67 Creator of the Stars of Night
- 39 Come, Lord Jesus
- Communion Antiphon pg 41
- 41 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



**Dates to Remember**

- ✚ Dec 11: Dominican Latin Mass 6:30pm SHC
- ✚ Dec 14: SHC Voices of Hope 7:00pm
- ✚ Dec 16: SHC Adoration 8:00am-12Noon.
- ✚ Dec 18: Tridentine Latin Mass 6:30pm SHC
- ✚ Jan 12, 2022: Ordination of Deacons Peter Oprych & Dominik Wojcik at SHC 10am.

**Spirituality and Formation should be an ongoing process! Take advantage of opportunities available to you. Spend some quiet time in daily prayer and reflection!**



**Christmas Eve/Day Mass Schedules**

**Sacred Heart Cathedral:**

Dec. 24 Vigil Mass - 4:30pm & 7pm\*

Dec. 25 Midnight Mass 12:00am

Dec. 25 11am\*

(\*live streamed)

**Immaculate Conception**

Dec 24 6:00pm

Dec 24 Midnight Mass 11:00pm

Dec 25 8:00 & 10:00am

**St. Raphael**

Dec 24 4:30pm & 9:00pm

Dec 25 10:00am

**St. Nicholas**

Dec 24 2:00pm Pageant

Dec 24 7:00pm

Dec 25 Midnight Mass 12:00am

Dec 25 10:00am

*Dec 25/26 Weekend Masses will be at regularly scheduled times.*

## Connecting the Gospel



... to the **First Reading**: The First and Second Readings both speak of rejoicing and suggest to us that the cause of our joy is Christ ("in your midst, a mighty savior"; "The Lord is near"). Christ is always being enfleshed in our midst.

... to **experience**: All of us have experienced the sheer goodness of another person, the utter joy of an event, the complete surprise of intimacy. With reflection we conclude that we have indeed experienced the nearness of Christ in the flesh among us.

<https://liturgy.slu.edu>

## Commentary on the Readings of the 1962 Roman Missal: Third Sunday of Advent

"I (John) am the voice of one crying in the desert, . . . but (pointing to Christ) in the midst of you there has stood One Whom you do not know" (Gospel).



This is known as "Rejoice" Sunday, from the opening word of the Introit. Despite our self-praised progress, real joy is missing from modern life. In such a "desert" we must look to Christ. Only He can "bring light to the darkness of our minds" (Prayer). Only He can bless, deliver, and forgive (Offertory). Only He can "say to the faint-hearted, "Take courage" (Communion Verse).

During these days before Christmas "have no anxiety" about selecting or receiving mere tinsel gifts but prepare "in. . . prayer. . . with thanksgiving" and "guard. . . your minds in Christ," the true source of our joy (Epistle). Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*.

## SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS

For more information or to help out, visit the webpage at <https://iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen> or you can call Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Nick Shamrell at 907-452-3533.



## Diocese of Fairbanks Synodal Nature of the Church

Sign on to the diocesan webpage at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org> and go to "What's Happening" tab and then to "Current News" to fill out the

Synodal Nature of the Church questionnaire. Bishop Chad's letter on this can be found at [www.stmarksuaaf.org/letters](http://www.stmarksuaaf.org/letters). The Diocesan Missionary Disciples online magazine has a special edition covering this topic.



## What is the "Christmas Nail"?

*It's a little ornament that carries a profound meaning*

Maybe this Christmas, a friend will visit your house. As they admire your Christmas tree decorated with lights, images of the Nativity, perhaps some colorful ribbon and a snowman or two, they'll spy a strange little ornament hanging close to the trunk of the tree. It's almost invisible—hidden behind branches and lights and other decorations.

It's a plain, long nail—much like the nails that pierced the hands and feet of Christ during His Passion. Your guests might wonder why such a nail would be found on a Christmas tree.

You'll explain to them that Jesus was born in Bethlehem so that, thirty-three years later, He could die for our sins on Calvary. The Nail is a reminder of the Passion this little babe would undergo, as innocent at His death as He was at His birth. It reminds us of His sufferings and the incredible love that motivated both His earthly nativity and His death. This Nail decorates a Christmas tree, and the nails of His Passion decorated the Tree of the Cross.

The Nail is not in a place of prominence, but almost hidden away near the trunk. It is not so much a *decoration*, but a prayerful reminder for the family and for those guests with particularly keen eyes and hearts.

A poem explains the meaning of The Christmas Nail:  
This is The Christmas Nail.

It is to be hung on a sturdy branch,  
a branch near the trunk,  
a branch that will hold such a spike without  
being noticed by well-wishers  
dropping by to admire one's tinsel tree.  
The nail is known only to the home that hangs  
it.

Understood only by the heart that knows its  
significance.

It is hung with the thought that the Christmas  
tree but foreshadows the Christ-tree  
which only He could decorate for us, ornamented with  
nails as this.



JANUARY 12, 2022

10AM

A DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS



### THE WELL NEVER DRIES UP

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. “Rejoice always,” he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you’re really feeling this vibe. But if you’ve got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. “Rejoice always? Always? When I’m tired? Cranky? When I’m sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I’ll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow’s morning commute.” When we feel this way, we know it’s time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God’s strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It’s water you can keep coming back to. It’s water that never dries up. Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to ‘rejoice always.’ To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties. The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It’s a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him. ~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



### Dec 12, 2021 \* 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent -

Justice Challenge: December 15 is our national celebration of the Bill of Rights. December 18 is the Islamic New Year. The Bill of

Rights protects some of our most sacred freedoms, among them freedom of religion. Our Catholic faith calls us to practice our faith and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others while showing respecting for the faith of others. This week’s challenge is to advocate for someone who is denied freedom of religion. This can be done through political action, prayer, or supporting the right of Muslims to worship God in their particular way.

We’d like to remind you that our Church community is here for you. What is it that you’d like us to pray for? We would be honored to pray for your intentions.

### SYNOD PRAYER

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You along to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must  
go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Stewardship Moment

***“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)***

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God’s image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

### Third Sunday of Advent -- December 12, 2021

“All were questioning in their hearts.” Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org).





**Sunday Collections:**

November 21 \$ 1,007.00  
November 28 \$ 525.50  
December 5 \$ 2,456.00

Total Sunday Collection for the new fiscal  
(July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022): \$25,4051.00



Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – education the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, any are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care and more. Please give generously this month to the collection. *3% of our December collection goes to the Retirement Fund for Religious.*

**End of Year Contributions**

For those who like to make end of year contributions, please do so by December 31, 2021. All donations dated January 1, 2022 or received during the month of January will show up on statements as a 2022 contribution.

*Aware of the Joy*

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you  
During this busy season. May we  
Stay aware of the joy you bring  
Into our lives. We want to find  
You in the everyday moments and  
Come with hearts of gratitude to  
Your manger on Christmas. Amen

**St. Mark Parish:** Ph.907-374-9564

Email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org)

Website: <http://www.stmarksuaf.org>

Office Hours: Tues-Fri: 10am – 12noon.

**Pastor:** Fr. Robert Fath Ph. 907-374-9504

Email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org)

Podcast: <https://frobertfath.podbean.com/>

**Deacon:** Warren Lucero

**Parish Admin.:** Mary Pat Boger Ph. 907-374-9564

**Bookkeeper:** Marilis Bennett Ph. 907-590-9291

**Music Director:** George Stefan Ph. 907-978-6953

**Sacraments:** Contact St. Mark's at [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org)

**Vocations:** See Fr. Robert Fath

**Parish Council:** Marilis Bennett, John Fox,

Cynthia Klepaski, Ritchie Musick, Jen & Sean Tucker

**AREA WEEKEND MASSES**

**Sacred Heart Cathedral 474-9032**

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

Saturday Latin Mass: 6:30pm – 10/23, 11/20, 12/18

Sunday: 8:00 & \*11:00am (\*Live-Streamed)

Sunday Spanish Mass: 1:00pm

St. Mark Sunday Mass: 5:30pm

<https://www.sacredheartak.org/>

**Immaculate Conception 452-3533**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm; Sunday: 7:30am, 10:00am

<https://www.iccfairbanks.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ICCFairbanks>

**Saint Raphael 457-6603**

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm; Sunday: 9:30am

<https://www.straphaelfairbanks.org/>

**Saint Nicholas, North Pole 488-2595**

Saturday Vigil: \*5:00pm; Sunday: 9:00am, 12:00pm

<http://www.stnicholasnp.org/>

**Good Shepherd, Ft. Wainwright**

Sunday: 9:00am, SLC

Adoration: Thursday 6:00 – 7:00 pm, SLC

Catholic Women of the Chapel: Wed - 9am, SLC

**Our Lady of Snows, Eielson Air Force Base**

Sunday: 10:30am

Daily Mass: Tuesday-Friday – 11:30am

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for December**

“Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**Continue to Pray For:** Pope Francis; Bishop Chad Zielinski, Fr. Robert Fath & all our Priests, Religious, Deacons, and Seminarians; an increase in vocations into the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. For our sick, homeless, and elders. Grant our dearly departed eternal rest and bring peace to their families

**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

Go to the St. Mark website <http://www.stmarksuaf.org>

to read “Why a Parish Census/Registration?”. We are asking everyone to fill out the paperwork or online form to update our records. Drop finished paper form off in donation basket at church. If you have questions, contact Mary Pat at [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org).

