



**ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH**  
 The Catholic Community of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
 1316 Peger Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5199  
 Email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org) Webpage: [stmarksuaf.org](http://stmarksuaf.org)

**December 19, 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**



**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 – North Pole**

Dec 24 2:00pm Pageant  
 Dec 24 7:00pm  
 Dec 25 Midnight Mass 12:00am  
 Dec 25 10:00am

*To fulfill your Sunday obligation (Feast of the Holy Family) you will need to attend Masses on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.*

**JANUARY 12, 2022 | 10AM** DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS

**SUNDAY READINGS:**

**Reading 1: Micah 5:1-4** The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

**Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19** A prayer for God's salvation.

**Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10** Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

**Gospel: Luke 1:29-45** Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

**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. 21 – Sacred Heart Cathedral 7:00 PM**

St. Mark's Choir, led by George Stefan, will be providing the music for the Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Vigil Mass. Please contact George if you are able to help.



**Dates to Remember**

- ✚ Dec 18: Tridentine Latin Mass 6:30pm SHC
- ✚ Dec 26: Feast of the Holy Family Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- ✚ Jan 12, 2022: Ordination of Deacons Peter Oprych & Dominik Wojcik at SHC 10am.
- ✚ Jan 21, 2022: Fairbanks Right to Life annual outdoor event on the Cushman St and Barnette St Bridges. Rally-Potluck-Candlelight Vigil @ ICC-Murphy Hall 5:30 – 7:00 PM.
- ✚ CONFIRMATION classes are held at SHC on Wednesday's at 7:30-8:45pm
- ✚ RCIA classes meet at SHC at Thursday's 7:30-8:45pm



## Connecting the Gospel

... *to the First Reading*: How astounding and unexpected that the majestic ruler of Israel should come from so small and insignificant a place as Bethlehem. Even more astounding is that the Son of God should come to share our humanity.

... *to experience*: We are overjoyed at a visit from a beloved relative or friend whom we have not seen for some time. We are being invited this Sunday to recognize and rejoice over the abiding presence of Jesus, who is beloved relative (brothers and sisters in Christ) and friend.

<https://liturgy.slu.edu>



## Commentary on the Readings of the 1962 Roman Missal:

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

"John, the son of Zachary," to a world now awaiting its God, pleads for our final pre-Christmas "make ready." "Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight His paths" (Gospel).

Heroically, in the desert, he warns against the softness of life in the city, pictured in the background. Alive to the danger of a "soft garments" life, he is seen in a rough "garment of camel hair," carrying a baptismal shell, "preaching a baptism of repentance."

"Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*.



## SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS

The Soup Kitchen is open on Christmas Day. For more information or to help, visit the webpage at <https://iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen> or you can call Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Nick Shamrell at 907-452-3533. Check their site for food and clothing items they are looking for.

## Diocese of Fairbanks Synodal Nature of the Church

Thank you to those who have already participated in the discussion questions! *We ask that all participate and send in your responses as soon as you can.* Email, send by mail, or drop in collection basket on Sunday Sign on 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.stmarksuaf.org/letters](http://www.stmarksuaf.org/letters).



**Who created the first nativity scene?** *A beloved saint brought us this most beloved Christmas tradition.*

Every year, one of your favorite Advent traditions is probably setting up your Nativity set.

Perhaps your nativity is made of wood, or silver, or china, or simple plastic; maybe you put it on the mantelpiece, or in the center of the dining room table. Many of us have a large one that we place outdoors so that passers-by can enjoy it; we might also have a tiny one that we place by our bedside to remind ourselves of the reason for the Christmas season.

We keep the Baby Jesus hidden away, ready to place Him in the manger on Christmas morning.

The three Kings are placed in a different part of the house; they will arrive on Epiphany and not before.

Devout citizens place Nativity scenes in public places, at state capitols, in parks, to bring the light of Christmas to their fellowmen. They fight to keep Christ in the public square even as others try to remove Him. This year, after all the struggle, 40 states have a Nativity scene in or at their capitol building.

But who *invented* the Nativity scene?

It was a deacon in Italy in the 13th century, who had a special love for the Child Jesus. He hatched a plan to inspire this same love in the townspeople.

In a cave near the town, he set up a manger and brought a real ox and donkey to play their part. He invited the people to Midnight Mass at the cave, and they came, the forest ringing with song and bright with candlelight. After chanting the Gospel, the deacon preached a sermon about the Babe of Bethlehem, Whose Name he could not utter for sheer love.

He kept the manger empty since the Child had not arrived yet. But one man—a holy citizen and former soldier who was a friend of the deacon—said that he saw, in the manger, a beautiful, radiant Child. He witnessed the deacon gathering this Child devoutly in his arms.

Of course, the deacon was none other than St. Francis of Assisi, and this is the story of the first Nativity scene, as related by St. Bonaventure in his biography of the saint. Bonaventure also relates that the hay from that first crèche was saved by the townspeople in attendance and that it miraculously cured ailing cattle. When we put our Nativity sets out this Christmas, we are continuing a tradition that started nearly *800 years ago*, in 1223.





\*\*\*\*\*BABY JESUS' WISH LIST\*\*\*\*\*

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**Dec 19, 2021 \* 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent -**

**Justice Challenge:** Christmas falls on Saturday of this week. Sometimes in the midst of gifts and parties we forget the real purpose of this celebration—the

Second Person of the Trinity incarnating and becoming one of us. Jesus came as a poor person to stand in total solidarity with those who have little. This week's challenge is to reflect on all the things you have, including the gifts you will be receiving this week, and what you will do with them in light of so many of your brothers and sisters across the world having so little.

What are you willing to share?

To Our Parish Family -

Here's wishing all a blessed and holy Christmas. May you all find the true meaning of Christmas as you gather with family and friends this weekend.

A special thanks to all who participate at Mass and help behind the scenes.

If you wish to specifically donate to St. Mark's on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please mark your donation to "St. Mark University Parish" and it will get to our bookkeeper (Marilis Bennett) by next week. Any donation made after December 31<sup>st</sup> will be recorded as a 2022 donation.



God Bless and may you all remain safe & healthy in the New Year!

Mary Pat Boger

Parish Administrator

**Employment Opportunity:**

Sacred Heart Cathedral is seeking a part-time bookkeeper. The position is 10-15 hours per week with a flexible work schedule. Requirements include high school diploma or GED, three years' work experience in an office or customer service setting involving financial record keeping and database management. Experience using Quickbooks, Microsoft Office and database software. Salary dependent on education and experience. To apply please submit cover letter and resume listing three professional references to Rev. Ross Tozzi, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 1300 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK. 99709 or via email to [rector@cbna.org](mailto:rector@cbna.org).

**Stewardship Moment**

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent -- December 19, 2021**

"It is by God's will that we have been sanctified." How is God calling you to grow in holiness? If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org) .



### Sunday Collections:

December 5 \$ 890.00

*Total Sunday Collection for the new fiscal (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022): \$26,391.00*

THANK YOU to all who donated to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Our next special collection will come during Lent - the annual Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowl. **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. Donation statements for 2021 will be mailed in January.



PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR PRIESTS, DEACONS, AND RELIGIOUS SERVING IN OUR DIOCESE WHO ARE TRAVELING TO AREAS WITHOUT PRIESTS, MAKING SURE THAT CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATED!

**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://frrobertfath.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. Pray 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).

