



**December 26, 2021 –  
 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,  
 Mary, and Joseph**



**SUNDAY READINGS:**

**Reading 1: Micah 5:1-4**

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

**Psalms 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.

*May the blessings of peace and happiness  
 Fill your homes this holy season  
 Merry Christmas!*

Fr. Robert Fath, Deacon Warren Lucero,  
 Mary Pat Boger & Marilis Bennett

**Connecting the Gospel**

... **to the Second Reading:** The Second Reading parallels what the gospel suggests about looking for Jesus. We look for Jesus by believing in him, loving one another, and keeping the commandments.

... **to experience:** Our experience of divine presence, obedience, and growing in wisdom unfolds first and foremost in our family life. The joys, challenges, and pains of family life are all opportunities to look for and find Jesus.



<https://liturgy.slu.edu>

**Dates to Remember**

- ✚ Dec 26: Feast of the Holy Family Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- ✚ Jan 1: Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Mass 8 & 11AM at SHC
- ✚ 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

**Commentary on the Readings of the 1962 Roman Missal: Sunday in the Octave of the Nativity**

"Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel" (Gospel).

This prophecy that Jesus is also "a sign that shall be contradicted," indicates what we, too, may expect as "sons of God"; yet it strengthens our hope, if we but place ourselves daily under Mary's care; then the last words of the Gospel may also be applied to us: "the Child grew and became strong. . .full of wisdom."



Yes, we are the "sons" and heirs" of God, Whom we can call "Father," because of "His Son, born of a woman," Mary (Epistle). Hence, Jesus, our Brother, actually "leapt down from heaven. . .with beauty. . .with strength" (Introit), to "direct our actions" in His "Name" (Prayer).

In the Gradual we offer our "good word" of gratitude for the final victory. Then we will realize that Antichrists "who sought the Child's life are dead" (Communion Verse). "Excerpted from *My Sunday Missal*.

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



**How we cover 2000+ years of history in every single Mass?** *Did you know that we experience all of salvation history at every Mass? Here's why the Liturgy of the Word is so powerful.*

Have you ever wondered why we read from an Old Testament book, then a Psalm, then a New Testament epistle, and a Gospel at every single Sunday Mass? Why do we follow them with a homily, the Creed, and intercessory prayer? Is it just to mix things up and keep them interesting, or is there something much greater and more intentional behind all of this?

As Catholics, we go to Mass so often that we might not think about why the Apostles and early Church Fathers set up the Mass the way they did, especially in regard to the structure of the Liturgy of the Word.

According to Christopher Carstens in his book *A Devotional Journey into the Mass*, in the Liturgy of the Word “**we should hear...an echo of salvation history’s larger dialogue.**” During the Liturgy of the Word, we don’t just listen to the Bible while sitting, singing, or standing. Each Sunday, we are actually walk-through salvation history and remember the various ways in which God has communicated with His people throughout the ages.

- In the first reading from the Old Testament, **God speaks to us** through His message to the Chosen People, prophesying the Messiah.
- During the Responsorial Psalm, **we speak to God**, using the language of the Israelites.
- When we read the second reading, **God speaks to us through or about Jesus.**
- Finally, in the Gospel, **Jesus Himself speaks** to us.

Next comes the homily, in which our priest or deacon helps us apply these Scripture passages to our daily lives. Next, we recite the Creed, responding to God’s call by formally declaring our faith in Him and the Church He established. Finally, in the Prayers of the Faithful, we speak to God in our own words and pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

As you can see, the Liturgy of the Word involves far more than simply “reading the Bible.” At each and every Mass, the Church presents us with a specific series of passages that help us journey through the history of salvation. We see God’s faithful love displayed over thousands of years, and we remember the hope that Christ has brought us through His life, death, and Resurrection. <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed>

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver



### Dec 26, 2021 \* Feast of the Holy Family

- Justice Challenge: During the Christmas season, we reflect on the images of peace that the prophets said would come when

the Messiah arrived on earth. We hear about lions and lambs lying down together and of swords being beaten into plowshares. January 1st is World Day of Peace. Yet we live in a world in which war and violence shatter the peace for which the Old Testament prophets yearned. All of us as one global family are called to do our part to bring peace to our world. Your challenge this week is to be a peace-maker—in your family, with your friends and colleagues at work or school, in your community. How can you bring people together, encourage others to settle disputes without resorting to violence, or advocate for global peace?



### Stewardship Moment

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”*  
(1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

### Feast of the Holy Family -- Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021

“He gave power to become children of God.” If you think you may be called to share the Father’s love as a priest, deacon, sister, or brother, contact the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org).

### Sunday Collections:

December 19 \$ 857.00  
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022,  
Total to Date: \$27,148.00



**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 before Dec 31, 2021. All donations dated January 1, 2022 or deposited in the month of January will show up on 2022 calendar year statements as a contribution. Donation statements for 2021 will be mailed in January.

**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).