



ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH

The Catholic Community of University of Alaska Fairbanks

1316 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709-5199

Email: stmark@cbna.org Webpage: <https://stmarksuaf.org>

Sunday Mass Schedule:

Vespers: 4:45 pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC)

Mass: 5:30 pm @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

Sacrament of Reconciliation: at Sacred Heart Cathedral
Saturday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM or by Appointment

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR-11AM & MASS-NOON

Join our priests *every Wednesday* as we pray for the next Bishop of Fairbanks at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Sacred Heart Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Latin Rite Mass 6:30 PM (Dec 3, 17)

Sunday 8 & 11 AM; Spanish Mass 1 PM

Clergy

Fr. Ross Tozzi: rtozzi@cbna.org Ph:907-347-3005

Fr. Piotr Oprych: poprych@cbna.org

Deacon Warren Lucero

Administration

Mary Pat Boger, Parish Admin. Ph.907-374-9564

stmark@cbna.org

Office hours: 10am – 12noon

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

George Stefan, Music Director: Ph. 907-687-0077

Devan Larson, Catholic Student Assn Advisor: UAF-catholic-Club@alaska.edu

Pastoral Council

Marilis Bennett, John Fox, Cynthia Klepaski, Ritchie Musick, Jen & Sean Tucker

Sacraments

Confession- Saturday 3:00-4:00pm at SHC
or arrange a time with a priest.

Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of Sick – contact our office at 907-374-9564.

Sacraments of Initiation/Vocations– contact Fr. Robert Fath at rfath@cbna.org or Ph. 907-374-9504

Anointing of the Sick

Please let us know when you or others are sick, going into the hospital, or in assisted living so that they may be included in our prayers and receive a visit upon request.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's University Parish provides a **welcoming faith community** for students, families, and individuals that share a geographic, intellectual, or historic connection to the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). We exist to **encourage, inform, and support the faith journey of all who have come to UAF** with a background in the Catholic tradition. St. Mark's also provides reliable information for non-Catholics inquiring about our faith and contributes to inter-faith discussion and ecumenical action.

DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A December 4, 2022



First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A descendent of Jesse will usher in a time of peace.

Responsorial: Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

The Messiah will bring justice and peace to the nations.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the salvation found in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec 3: 9am-6pm SHC Christmas Bazaar

Dec 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – *Holy Day of Obligation*

Dec 9: CSA Meeting – 2:30pm (*Symbolon Series*)

Dec 10: UAF Last Day of Instructions

Dec 11: *Oplatki Wafers* available after 5:30pm Mass

Dec 12-17: UAF Final Examinations



Mass Schedule at Sacred Heart Cathedral

7:30am, 12:10pm, 7:00pm

CSA Campus Mass

7:00pm (30 min Adoration after Mass)

ADVENT RECONCILIATION:

Priests will be available from 6:00 – 8:00 PM on the following dates for reconciliation:

Tuesday – December 13 - SHC

(*Sacred Heart & Immaculate Conception*)

Friday – December 16 - St. Nicholas in North Pole

Tuesday – December 20 - St. Raphael”



Prepare with “prayerful self-reflection on our words and deeds in the light of the Gospel to determine how we may have sinned against God.”



Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturday 3-4:00pm at SHC or by arrangement with Fr. Ross Tozzi or Fr. Piotr Oprych by calling SHC – 907-474-9032

Sacraments of Vocations– contact Fr. Robert Fath at rfath@cbna.org or Ph. 907-374-9504

Oratory Religious Education Classes meet at SHC on Saturday afternoons – downstairs.

- 1:30 PM – ORATORY
- 2:45 pm - Good afternoon talk by a priest or sister
- 3:00 PM – Break with snacks.
- 3:15 PM – Catechism Class.
- 4:15 PM – Parents pick children up to either take them to the 4:30 PM Vigil Mass or return home.

Confirmation– **Thursdays** 6:00 - 7:00 PM at SHC downstairs followed by **Youth Group** 7:00 to 8:45 PM

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) meets 7:30 – 8:45 PM – **Wednesday evenings** at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Catholic Student Association – **Thursday Meetings** at 7pm in Lathrop Building Room 112 (subject to change) when UAF is in session. Topics of interest regarding the Church (sacraments, teachings, etc.) Contact UAF-catholic-Club@alaska.edu for more information.

Marriage Preparations – Please contact Fr. Ross six (6 mo) prior to wedding. In preparation of marriage, engaged couples are invited and asked to attend Beloved Classes (once a week for 6 weeks), and Engaged Encounter weekend.

Funerals – Contact parish office at SHC – 907-474-9032

REGIONAL SOUP KITCHEN

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.

St. Mark's Reverse Advent "Calendar" for the Regional Soup Kitchen. For each of the 24 days leading up to Christmas Eve, we ask you to place a non-perishable item in a box for donating to the Soup Kitchen. Drop your donation off at the entrance of Sacred Heart Cathedral marked "Regional Soup Kitchen." *Not sure what to give?* Go to <https://www.iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen> or contact Nick Shamrell at 907-452-3533.

Advent

= Hope + Peace + Joy + Love

The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes PEACE with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us that one of the prophecies about Jesus calls him "the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 96:6-7).

FAITH-FILM-FOOD ~ Friday, December 16, 2022. Eucharistic Revival ~ Astronomy, computer science, and Sacred Scripture come together to prove the existence of "**The Christmas Star**" in this exciting film! The detail gives us an awesome look into the infinite planning & wisdom of God in His creation & timing of our Saviour's birth. Bring the whole family to celebrate the 'Advent' of Christmas. + Bring a meatless dish to share - potluck begins at 6:30pm, movie at 7:00 in Murphy Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, 2 Doyon Place ('Little White Church by the River').

Christmas Concert



SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL
1300 Peger Rd
 MONDAY DECEMBER 26TH
 3 PM

Come join us to celebrate the birth of Our Lord with a presentation of traditional Christmas Carols, and other pieces prepared by singers of the diocese.

Cookies and hot chocolate to follow!

**WHEN YOU HEAR
GOD'S VOICE TODAY,
HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART!**
Vocations Are Everybody's Business

2nd Sunday of Advent –

Are you called to be "A herald's voice in the desert" preparing the way of the Lord in the hearts of His people? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, Contact the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org

"Advent is thus a favorable time to pray with greater intensity, to reserve to the spiritual life the important place it deserves." ~Pope Francis, *Angelus, December 10, 2017*

Diocesan Employment Opportunities NOW HIRING!

The Diocese of Fairbanks is hiring for the following positions.

- Director of Annual Giving (Full-time)
- Payroll Technician (15-20 hrs./month)
- Project Manager (Full-time)
- Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinator (15-30 hrs./week)

Learn more at dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings! To apply, submit a résumé and cover letter to vac@cbna.org.

St. Raphael Parish has an immediate opening for the part-time Office Manager Position (25 hrs./wk.). This position does include some bookkeeping duties. If interested, contact Fr. Jingbe at 907.328.9424 or email sjingbe@cbna.org.



Justice Challenge: The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is from the prophet Isaiah. It includes these words: "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together...There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy land; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord..." (Isaiah 11:1-10). Isaiah portrays a powerful image of cooperation and peace in this reading. Your challenge this week is to go to the Catholic Relief Services website, read a real-life story of people helping people, research the work which CRS is doing to bring peace and justice to our world, and choose one action you can take as a family or household to support the work of this great organization (www.crs.org/peacebuilding).

Connecting the Gospel ...

... **to the First Reading:** During Advent, the readings from Isaiah are prophecies of the Messiah. Thus, the "sprout from the stump of Jesse" is the Christ. The "spirit of the Lord" that rested upon Jesus bringing him wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and fear of the Lord is the same Spirit we are given at baptism bringing us the same gifts enabling us to be faithful and fruitful.



... **to experience:** The misuse of fire, arson, is considered a very heinous crime because it destroys more than property; it is an invasion of personal space. In this gospel John refers to fire as a destructive force but also as a gift that brings personal worth—new Life. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer, or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church, or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?



"The Christmas tree is a symbol of rebirth, God's gift by which He is united forever to humanity. He gives us His life. The lights on the fir tree recall the light of Jesus, the light of love that continues to shine in the world's nights." Pope Francis

WOW! ISAIAH LOVES HIS METAPHORS! HE STARTS OUT WITH A NEW SHOOT GROWING FROM AN OLD TREE AND THEN ITS A RIGHTEOUS JUDGE AND THEN ITS ANIMALS LIVING TOGETHER AND THEN BY THE END, IS IT A TREE AGAIN? AM I READING THIS RIGHT?

AN ANCIENT HYMN GOES, "BY THE FRUIT OF THE ROOT, HE WILL GRAFT US INTO HIS TREE!"

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT I REALLY LIKE THE SOUND OF IT!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

"EPHREM THE SYRIAN, 'HYMNS ON THE NATIVITY' 5:17

ISAIAH 11 1-10



What is a Rorate Mass? For nearly a millennium, it has been the Advent Mass of the Virgin.

It's the cold, frosty hours before dawn.

Even though the sun won't be up for some time, you roll out of bed and dress in church-going clothes before making the drive to your parish.

The church looks totally dark, but when you walk in, hundreds of tiny, ardent flames are blazing on the altar and in the pews. The warm sparks throw hushed, rosy hues against the shadowed walls.



Mass begins, still in the semi-dark of candlelight.

"Rorate, caeli, desuper...Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above..."

Although it is Advent, altar and celebrant are clothed in shining white vesture. The readings speak of a Savior who will be born of a Virgin. Hot wax drips down the slender candles. As the Mass progresses, dawn creeps up to the stained-glass windows.

"Ite, missa est...Go, the mass is ended..."

Mass is over. The little points of flame are pale in the morning light.

This is a taste of the Rorate Mass—a special Mass celebrated in honor of the Blessed Mother on an Advent Saturday. The Rorate tradition began around the 13th century during a surge of devotion to her. The white vestments honor her sinlessness and virginity, and the readings are taken from prophecies of the Savior's birth. Named for the first word of its entrance hymn, the Mass is prayed as morning dawns, symbolizing the coming of the Christ Child's light at Christmas. www.catholiccompany.com

SYMBOLS AND CUSTOMS OF ADVENT

The Jesse Tree is named for Jesse the father of King David whose line can be traced to St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus.



+ Used as a symbol to explain the Old Testament generational connection between Adam, Abraham, and Jesus as explained in Gospels Matthew and Luke.

+ Popular symbols represent people of the Old Testament including King David as a crown and Noah as a boat. www.catholicapostolatecenter.org

Question of the Week:

For Adults – What do you need to change so that others can learn from watching you that Christ walks among us?

For Children – What could you do so that others will see in you what it means to follow Jesus?

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

We are grateful to all those who are making sacrifices to support our Church financially!



November Collection total \$3,798.00

November 6 - \$1,643.00

November 13 - \$943.00

November 20 - \$630.00

November 27 - \$567.00

Total for 7/1/22 - 6/30/23 = \$21,229.09

For the month of November, \$250 went toward Diocese of Fairbanks Special Collection. For the month of December, 3% of our collections will go toward "Retirement Fund for Religious". Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others. Many need assistance and your gift helps to furnish medications and nursing care for them.

Thank you for your generosity.



Pope Francis' December Intentions:

Volunteer Not-For-Profit Organizations:

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Please Pray For.... Pope Francis; Diocese of Fairbanks Apostolic Administrator – Archbishop Andrew Bellisario; Fr. Ross Tozzi, Fr. Piotr Oprych, and Deacon Warren Lucero; priests and religious in our Diocese. St. Mark Parishioners. UAF students wrapping up their semester of studies. Those who have fallen away from their faith. Our elderly and sick. All who live in areas of unrest. Pray for our loved ones who have died.



Prayer for a New Bishop

Almighty God, who by the Holy Spirit moves the hearts of Your people, Direct the counsels of those who are appointed to choose a bishop for the Diocese of Fairbanks, That we may be given a pastor who, in faithfulness and wisdom, Shall lead Your people in the way of holiness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for us.

ADORATION TIMES

Sacred Heart Cathedral Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Saturday 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM



Immaculate Conception Church
Tuesday 7:00 – 8:00 PM
Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Saturday 3:00 – 4:00 PM

St. Raphael Catholic Church
Tues & Thurs 8:30 – 9:30 AM
Wed 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Fri. 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

St. Nicholas Catholic Church
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 8:00 AM

Everyday Stewardship Being Surprised By Christ



Some people hate surprise parties. There are those who are uncomfortable with a last-minute vacation or even an unexpected travel upgrade. If it wasn't part of the plan, it's a cause for consternation.

There is a temptation to view these folks as curmudgeonly – sticks in the mud, obsessed with predictability. But I think if we're being honest, there's a little bit of the surprise-averse in all of us.

Deep within the very heart of the element of surprise is a kernel of shock. And shock, in the moment, can feel similar to trauma. If we reflect on the most traumatic occurrences of our lives – a loss, an accident, a calamity – it is likely that we will say this: "It was the shock more than anything that got to me." Grief or fear, those feelings were overwhelming as well, but they came later. In the first moment, all we knew was we were going about our lives on one path until we were thrust on a different one and then the whole future changed.

This is the natural rhythm of our life here on earth. We never know what is coming – which is to say, in a beautiful way, we always know what is coming. More importantly, we know Who is coming.

Like the early riser who sets the "pre-alarm" (the one on which he knows he's going to hit snooze just to take the edge off the disappointment of waking up), we are always being given a heads-up in Scripture. From the earliest prophecies of the Messiah to Jesus' reminders in the Gospel to the very last words of Revelations, God has communicated to His stewards: You know the time. The time is now. We are called to constant vigilance, perpetual renewal, steadfast accountability.

In the end, the coming of Christ may be the only event in history that was a surprise, but not a shock – and so it will only be beautiful, even for those who hate surprise parties.
– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Safe Environment

Our diocese is committed to creating a safe environment for everyone. If you are aware of abuse, you are encouraged to report the abuse to local law enforcement agencies and to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Alicia Menard, by calling (907) 374-9553. **ONLY call this number to report abuse or concerning behavior.** For more information, access the Diocese safe environment link through <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/bishop-abuse-reporting>.

"One earns paradise with one's daily tasks."
~St. Gianna Molla