



# ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH

The Catholic Community of University of Alaska Fairbanks

1316 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709-5168

Email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org) Webpage: <https://stmarksuaf.org>

## St. Mark Sunday Mass Schedule:

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

*(No Vespers on 12/25/22 & 1/1/23)*

**Mass:** 5:30 pm @ SHC

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** SHC

Saturday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM or by Appointment

**Adoration:** SHC

Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Saturday 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

## EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR-11AM & MASS-12N

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

### Clergy

Fr. Ross Tozzi: [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto:rtozzi@cbna.org) Ph:907-347-3005

Fr. Piotr Opyrch: [poprych@cbna.org](mailto:poprych@cbna.org)

Deacon Warren Lucero

### Administration

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

[stmark@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rfath@cbna.org) or Ph. 907-374-9504

### 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.

### Latin Phrases Every Catholic Should Know:

**Gaudete**

**pronounced: Gow-day-tay**

“joy” or “rejoice”

## Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A December 11, 2022



*Gaudete Sunday:  
The Third Sunday in Advent*

### First Reading: **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.

### Responsorial: **Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4**

Sing to the Lord for he has done wondrous deeds.

### Second Reading: **Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12**

In Christ, we were chosen to be adopted children of God.

### Gospel Reading: **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.”

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

*Christmas Mass Schedules in back of Bulletin*

**Dec 11: Gaudete Sunday**

*Oplatki Wafers available after Mass*

**Dec 12-17: UAF Final Examinations**

### PREPARING THE WAY:

#### RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

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

**Tuesday** – December 13<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Cathedral  
*(Sacred Heart & Immaculate Conception)*

**Friday** – December 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas in North Pole

**Tuesday** – December 20<sup>th</sup> at 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](mailto: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**– Thursday 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.

**SHC Book Club** – January Book: *The Ascent to God: Divine Theosis Revealed and Realized in the Teaching of John Paul II* by **Thomas P. Kuffel** and Nancy Carol James. The Forward is by **Chad Zielinski**.

**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](mailto:UAF-catholic-Club@alaska.edu) for more information.

**ICC Faith-Film-Food** – Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Bring the whole family to celebrate Advent of Christmas and watch *“The Christmas Star.”* +Bring a meatless dish to share for the 6:30pm potluck ~ 7:00 movie. All held at ICC, downstairs in Murphy Hall.

**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



**During Christmas Season** take the time to pray for vocations (priests, brothers, sisters, seminarian, and deacons). You'll find a list on our webpage <https://stmarksuaf.org> and in the bulletin insert. *You can post and pray throughout the year!*



**Justice Challenge:** Sunday's Gospel has Jesus answering the question of who he is by stating: *“Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them”* (Mt. 11:2-11). Jesus equates his very identity with care for the poor and marginalized. Your challenge this week is to identify the blind, the lepers, and the poor in your life. Discuss one particular person in need whom God is calling you and your family to serve. Select an action you can do for this person, just as Jesus did. And remember that Pope Francis said that having a friend who is poor is a pathway to heaven. So . . . just do it!

### 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?

### Connecting the Gospel ...

... **to the First Reading:** Isaiah announces that salvation is revealed in such wonders as making the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame walk. These are exactly the works Jesus does, revealing to John and to us that Jesus is “the Christ,” the



Savior.

... **to experience:** We learn who a person is by observing how that person lives and behaves. We learn who Jesus is by observing how faithful believers live and behave.



**“Gaudete”** is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: *“rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near”* (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). This

Sunday we light a pink candle to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday looking with joyful expectation in the eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.

**JOY** in looking forward to celebrating Christmas.

**JOY** in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas.

**JOY** because he was born to save us from sins.

**JOY** in the anticipation of the Second Coming.



### What is the tradition of the Christmas “Oplatki” wafer?

*The spirit of Christ-like charity is baked into this wafer-bread.*

The Oplatki have an unassuming appearance and only the mildest flavor, looking more like a thick piece of paper.

This modest appearance, however, conceals a symbolically rich custom.

The Christmas wafers come from Eastern Europe. The name means “Angel Bread.” Made only of flour and water, they are stamped with Christmas images such as the Star of Bethlehem or the Nativity.



On Christmas Eve, the head of the family prays for the members of his family, present or absent, then breaks a piece off the wafer and gives it to each person. As the family members receive the wafer pieces, they are greeted with a kiss and a felicitation for a joyful feast. They then return the greeting in the same way.

The lesson of this custom is that the family must be united with the bonds of charity. It reminds us that we do not seek salvation alone, but with others, especially our family. We should help each other obtain salvation, always bearing Christ-like charity toward one another. When we are united in charity, we are joined, by the head of the family, to the unbroken links of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One Church.

Do you want to renew and cultivate the bond of charity you have with your family? Incorporate the Oplatki Christmas Wafers tradition into your own family customs this year. <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed>

### CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



The Giving Tree is a variation of the Jesse Tree that became popular in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

• Intended to remind Christians of the teaching of Jesus “*what you do to the least of these, you do to me*” (Mt 25:40).

If you want to participate in the Sacred Heart Giving Tree, you’ll find it in the vestibule with colored paper bulbs, each marked with a specific request for an item for one person (gender and age will be listed on bulb.) **If you wish, please take a bulb, purchase the requested item, wrap, and return to SHC by no later than Sunday, Dec. 4 for Seniors, or Dec. 12 for families.**

“Any book that inspires us to lead a better life is a good book.” ~ *Fulton Sheen*

### Everyday Stewardship How Much Is Enough?



I’ve got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn’t care what name you bear. He doesn’t care where you were born, and he doesn’t care what your family tree looks like. He doesn’t care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I’ve also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It’s so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That’s enough.

I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That’s enough.

I’m on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That’s enough.

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

### A short prayer for safety to all our students and families traveling during Christmas break:



Lord, I go with you, I am safe with you. I do not travel alone, For your hand is upon me, Your protection is divine. Besides, in front and behind You encircle my life, For I am yours, and you are mine.

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 4 - \$665.00

Collection for Fiscal Year

July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023: \$21,909.09

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

Your donation can be put in the basket at the entrance at church, mailed, or online at <https://www.stmarksuaf.org> and look for the “WeShare symbol.”

3% of our December collection will go to the “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 continued support!**

### 2022 Donations

The accounting system in the Parish Office will not allow us to post donations received after December 31, 2022, to your 2022 contributions. If you would like your contributions to be credited to 2022, they MUST be received by December 31, 2022.

### 2022 Tax Statements

The 2022 Tax Statements will be available at the end of January. Please make sure your address is up to date with the Parish Office

### 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.

**Let's 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. All who are studying to coming fully into the church. Fallen away Catholics. People who are homebound, elderly, and in nursing homes. All serving or living in areas of unrest. Pray for our loved ones who have died.

### 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/](https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings/)! To apply, submit a résumé and cover letter to [vac@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto:sjingbe@cbna.org).

### 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.*



### Third Sunday of Advent

– “I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you.” Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon, sister, or brother? Office at (907) 374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org)

**WHEN YOU HEAR  
GOD'S VOICE TODAY,  
HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART!**

*Vocations Are Everybody's Business*



Schedule for upcoming

**Holy Days** for the **Christmas Season**  
at Sacred Heart Cathedral

### Christmas Mass

Vigil Mass: Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

~ 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM, Midnight  
(Music Begins at 11:15PM)

Mass on the Day: Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

~ 8:00 am, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish)  
St. Mark University Parish 5:30 pm

### New Year's Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass: Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> ~ 4:30 PM

Mass on the Day: Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

~ 8:00 am, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish)  
St. Mark University Parish 5:30 pm

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Vigil Mass: Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 4:30 PM

Mass on the Day: Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

~ 8:00 am, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish)  
St. Mark University Parish 5:30 pm