



ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH

The Catholic Community of University of Alaska Fairbanks

1316 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709-5168

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 SHC

Saturday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM (*None on 12/24*)

EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR-11AM followed by Mass

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 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@alasks.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

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: *adventus*

means "coming"

In the 4th and 5th century this was the time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Forty days in prayer and fasting took place to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A December 18, 2022



First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Responsorial: Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Christmas Mass Schedules posted in bulletin.

Dec. 17 – Jan 16 – University Christmas Break

Dec. 20 – Reconciliation at St. Raphael's 6-8 PM

Dec 22 – SHC Church Decoration Party 6-8 PM

Dec 22 – 24 – Oratory/Confirmation/Youth Group
Classes cancelled this week at SHC

Dec 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

Congratulations to Bishop Donald Kettler on his retirement (12/15/22)! He was appointed Bishop of Diocese of Fairbanks on August 22, 2002, and transferred to Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota on November 7, 2013. Fr. Patrick Neary, C.S.C. has been appointed to replace him.





Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturday 3-4:00pm at SHC (*none on 12/24*) or by arrangement with Fr. Ross Tozzi or Fr. Piotr Oprych by calling SHC – 907-474-9032

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

Oratory Religious Education – Will not meet on 12/24.

Confirmation & Youth Group – Will not meet on 12/24.

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 – UAF is on Christmas Break until January 17, 2023 (Tuesday). Meetings and Masses will start up again in January. Contact UAF-catholic-Club@alaska.edu for more information.

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

Marriage Preparations – Please contact Fr. Ross six (6) months 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

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!

“The family is the basis in the Lord’s plan, and all the forces of evil aim to demolish it. Uphold your families and guard the against the grudges of the evil one by the presence of God.”

~ St. Charbel

The **Fourth Advent Candle** is the last one, known as



“*The Angel’s Candle,*” it represents “*Love.*” Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus’ entire purpose for being on earth. During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son.

Sacred Heart Cathedral
Decorating Party -
Dec 22nd Thursday,
from 6:00-8:00 PM.
Join in the fun and
enjoy pizza for your
holiday spirit!



Poinsettias will be displayed during Christmas in remembrance of our deceased friends and family. **Orders must be received before December 20 to be included in our annual Christmas memorial flyer. Please use only one name per poinsettia plant (may be one family name) but you may order as many plants as you wish.** Please print names legibly on the envelopes and include \$20.00 per plant if you would like the name included in our Christmas Memorial flyer.



Justice Challenge: : We celebrate the Incarnation on Wednesday—God taking on human flesh and becoming one of us. This is the ultimate act of solidarity. Jesus embraced humanity in all of its joy and in all of its suffering. He truly became “one of us.” We are called to be one with each other as Jesus is one with us. Your challenge during this final (short) week of Advent is to ask yourself which part of God’s community you are disconnected from. With whom does God want you to stand in solidarity—locally or globally? Say a prayer every night this week for this person or group of persons.

Focusing the Gospel ...

Key words and phrases: how the birth of Jesus Christ came about, through the Holy Spirit, God is with us



To the point: In this Gospel, the state of affairs is not what it appears to be. Mary is not unfaithful, but faithful. Mary is with child, but a virgin. The infant is not only an earthly child, but also a heavenly One. Yet the infant is not heaven-bound, but an earth-bound Emmanuel. Joseph is not the father, but in a father’s role, names the Child Jesus. When the Spirit of God is at work, and we cooperate as did Mary and Joseph, something altogether new happens: mystery abounds, “God is with us.”



What are the “O Antiphons”?

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.”

The beloved Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is a musical rendering of the Greater Advent Antiphons, also called the “O” Antiphons based on the initial letter of each. They are sung at the Magnificat during Vespers (Evening Prayer) from today, December 17th, through December 23rd.

These verses are a heart-rending plea for the Messiah to appear and save His people. They address Him by the titles He is given in Sacred Scripture and encapsulate the profound longing of God’s people for their Savior.



Thousands of years of salvation history, thousands of years of waiting—of aching—for the Messiah find expression in these short, simple, yet intensely moving words.

The great liturgical commentator Dom Prosper Guéranger notes that these Antiphons are sung at Vespers because Our Lord came at the “evening of the world,” and are placed at the Magnificat to illustrate that He came to us through Our Lady.

A fascinating fact about these antiphons is that Our Lord’s answer is rendered within them as an acronym. If you take the first letters of each Latin title, beginning with the last (Emmanuel) and working backward to the first (Sapientia), it spells ERO CRAS, which means “Tomorrow I will come” in Latin!

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/what-are-the-o-antiphons/>



Each of the seven antiphons begins by addressing Jesus using an Old Testament title for the Messiah. These seven names or titles, all from the Book of Isaiah, are:

Dec. 17, **O’ Sapientia** (meaning O Wisdom), from Isaiah 11:2-3.

Dec. 18, **O’ Adonai** (O Lord or Ruler), 11:4-5 and 33:22.

Dec. 19, **O’ Radix** (O Root of Jesse), 11:1.

Dec. 20, **O’ Clavis** (O Key of David), 22:22.

Dec. 21, **O’ Oriens** (O Radiant Dawn), 9:1.

Dec. 22, **O’ Rex Gentium** (O King of the Nations), 2:4.

Dec. 23, **O’ Emmanuel** (O God with Us), 7:14.

<https://www.simplycatholic.com/what-are-the-o-antiphons/>

UPDATE: Please read the “Diocesan Missionary Disciples” at <https://stmarksuaf.org> for the Discernment Update on Josh Miller. He continues to be called to be a priest and military chaplain but is looking to transfer to his home diocese to finish his training. We continue to pray for him on his journey and thank him for his work in our diocese.

Everyday Stewardship

The Season That Gives Back



*I don’t have anything left to give.
You can’t pour from an empty cup.
All I do is give. Who is giving to me?*

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I’m sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that’s parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

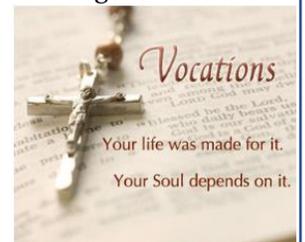
The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don’t have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.” Are you

prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrate-ed life? Contact the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org



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PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



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.

Remember: Pope Francis; Archbishop Andrew Bellisario - Apostolic Administrator; Fr. Ross Tozzi, Fr. Piotr Oprych, and Deacon Warren Lucero; priests and religious in our Diocese; St. Mark Parishioners; students and their families during Christmas Break; those studying to coming fully into the church; Fallen away Catholics; the homebound, elderly, and in nursing homes. Pray for living in areas of unrest, as well as servicemen-women-volunteers working in those areas. For all those recently deceased and their loved ones.



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

Christmas Mass

Vigil Mass: Saturday, December 24th

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

Mass on the Day: Sunday, Dec. 25th

~ 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 31st ~ 4:30 PM

Mass on the Day: Sunday, January 1st

~ 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 7th ~ 4:30 PM

Mass on the Day: Sunday, January 8th

~ 8:00 am, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish)

St. Mark University Parish 5:30 pm

“Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.” Which means “God is with us.”

~ Matthew 1:23



A PRAYER WHILE YOU STAND IN LINE AT THE POST OFFICE:

God our Father, may everything we do be first-class. Imprint your loving zip code upon our hearts so that we may never go astray. Provide in your gracious Providence special handling for those of us who are fragile and keep us in one piece. And when our days draw to a close and we are marked “Return to sender,” be there to greet us at Heaven's door so that nobody may ever say “UNKNOWN AT THIS ADDRESS.” Amen

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 11 - \$ 1,585.00

Collection for Fiscal Year

7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023: \$ 23,489.09

We are deeply appreciative for the many ways that Stewardship is demonstrated in our parish. At the end of the December we will donate 3% of our donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many need assistance; your gift helps to provide their care as they age. You can make your donation in person at Mass or electronically on our website stmarks@uaf.org. Look for the WeShare Logo.



Your support is a blessing that keeps us going. Please read the following if you are considering an end of the year donation for tax purposes:

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”
MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

ADVENT PRAYER

Dear God, be near me and give me strength and courage when I go out into the world to do your will. May my yes be as unshakeable as Joseph and Mary's. I'm listening for your call. Amen.

