



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>

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.

PASTOR

Fr. Ross Tozzi: rtozzi@cbna.org Ph: 907-347-3005
Fr. Piotr Oprych: poprych@cbna.org Ph: 907-347-9805

DEACON

Warren Lucero

ST. MARK MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Vespers: 4:45 PM @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

Confessions: Saturdays 3-4 PM at SHC or by appt

Sunday: 5:30 PM @ SHC

If you are unable to receive normal hosts, please arrive early and see the priest or sacristan (Jennifer Chown) before Mass to ask to have low gluten hosts available.

Catholic Student Association

Religious Instruction – 5:15 PM at UAF Upper Lola Tilly
Mass & Meeting – 6:30 PM at UAF Upper Lola Tilly

LATIN MASS SCHEDULE:

Held at 6:00pm at SHC- 12/9 & 12/6

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours: 10am – 12noon

Parish Admin: Mary Pat Boger – Ph. 907-374-9564

Bookkeeping: Marilis Bennett - Ph. 907-590-9291

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

CSA Advisor: Devan Larson: UAF-catholic-Club@alasks.edu

Pastoral Council

Marilis Bennett, Cynthia Klepaski, Ritchie Musick,
Jen & Sean Tucker, Fr. Ross Tozzi.

Finance Council

Marilis Bennett, Jen Tucker, Fr. Ross Tozzi

Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.

- Pope Francis

COMING EVENTS:

12/10: 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ PEACE

12/16: 6 PM Latin Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral

12/16: 5011 Knights of Columbus Holiday Potluck after
4PM ICC Mass

12/17: 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ JOY

12/ 19: (Tue) 5-6PM

"Peace in the Womb" Christmas Caroling Days @ Planned
Parenthood 1879 Airport Way

12/21: 6-7 PM SHC Decorating & Pizza Party

12/24: 4th Sunday of Advent ~ LOVE

12/25: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

12/26: 6 PM 2nd Annual Christmas Concert at SHC

12/29 (Fri) 1-2 PM "Peace in the Womb" (see 12/19)

Second Sunday in Advent, Cycle B December 10, 2023



First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial: Psalm 85:9-14

The Lord's salvation is near.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Peter teaches that we must always be holy because the return of the Lord cannot be predicted.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.



Dec. 10 Hymns for 5:30pm Mass

41 – On Jordan's Bank

43 – People, Look East

63– Ready the Way

65 – Litany for Advent

58 – The Advent of Our King

*Consider joining the choir for the 5:30 PM
Christmas Vigil Mass to help bring joyful
music into the liturgy.*

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 the Sacred Heart Cathedral annual Christmas memorial flyer. Please use only one name per poinsettia plant (maybe 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.



"One who has hope lives differently." ~ Pope Benedict XVI



Oratory: 1:30 – 2:45 PM every Saturday at Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC). For more information contact servidoras@cbna.org

Confirmation/Youth Group: Thursdays – alternating between SHC and ICC. Contact servidoras@cbna.org for more information.

Voces Verbi Young Adult Group: 1st Friday at ICC. Meet for 5:30 PM Latin Mass.

Voice of Hope Prayer Group: 6PM Tues evenings at SHC .

2023 Christmas Concert: Rehearsals on Tuesdays at SHC from 6:00-7:00 PM. All Ages Welcome! Contact Sr. New Eve @ iccsecretary@cbna.org

Women's Group – 7:00 pm - 1st & 3rd Tuesday at the sister's convent. Contact the sisters for more info: servidoras@cbna.org

Men's Group at ICC – Every Thursday at 7:30 pm starting with Adoration, the fellowship downstairs.

30-day preparation to make a consecration for Our Lady at ICC. Daily videos will be sent out by email and will meet once a week on Saturdays at 10AM at ICC.

Voices in the Wilderness: 6:30 pm Fridays at ICC. Contact Joe Malen 388-2550 or Annie Dobbs 479-8567.

SHC Book Club –12:30 pm **1st Monday of the month.** Contact: Janet Fortune – 43janette@gmail.com .

Every First Friday/Saturday at Immaculate Conception Church (ICC): 5:30 PM First Friday Latin Mass, 6AM-6PM Nocturnal Adoration (please sign up for an hour of adoration); 6AM Patriotic Rosary; 7AM First Saturday Latin Mass.

ICC Our Lady of Fatima: For more information, contact Shannon Christensen at (907) 388-1825.

Knights of Columbus –6:30 pm **2nd Thursday of the month** downstairs @ SHC. Contact ICC for KoC meetings there. Become an active part in the civic lives of our country, states, and local communities.

Legion of Mary: 6pm Tuesday Legion of Mary Meetings ~ ICC.

Franciscan Community – 6:30 pm on **1st Thursday of the month** at St. Raphael Church. For information contact Gloria Slagle stclare4@gmail.com

Associates of the sisters of St. Joseph – Contact Patty Walter at pattywalter@hotmail.com for more info. Quarterly meetings. They have been active since 1987.

Marriage Preparations – Please contact Fr. Ross *six (6) months prior to wedding.* Contact rtozzi@cbna.org to register or call (907) 347-3005 to register or talk.

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

Funerals – Contact Parish Office at SHC – 907-474-9032.

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE

Advent Penance Services

St. Nicholas: Friday – December 15, 6 PM

St. Raphael: Thursday – December 21, 7PM



Justice Challenge: The Responsorial Song for Sunday sings of justice and peace kissing when the Messiah comes. The psalmist proclaims, “Justice shall walk before him...” So many Scripture readings remind us that one of

the best paths to peace comes through achieving justice—making sure everyone has what he or she needs to live a life of dignity and hope. The root of conflict can usually be found when people are denied their basic human rights. Your challenge this week is to discuss as a family or household what you think the connection is between justice and peace. Then choose one act of justice which you can do to bring more peace to our world. What is God calling you to do this week—in your immediate family, in your parish or school, in your community, or even in the world itself—to help someone secure the human rights they have been denied? And remember that we Catholics believe they deserve these rights, not by earning them or buying them or even achieving them, but because they are part of the human family, just like you and me, created in God’s own image and likeness.

The Second Week of Advent:

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen
www.xavier.edu

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the First Reading: The “way of the Lord” announced by Isaiah and John will only be fully realized when Christ’s second coming ushers in a “new heavens and a new earth.” What we do now—how we prepare for the coming of the Lord and live every day—is hastening what is to come.



...to experience: Regularly we hear news reports about people who do extra-ordinary things: a firefighter saves a child from a burning building, a parent goes without food to feed the child, or a missionary gives her life for the poor of a third world country. John the Baptist was surely an extraordinary man—from his miraculous birth through his desert living to his being precursor of the Messiah. Most of us are not so extraordinary or different, but nonetheless, we are called to announce the coming of the Lord through our manner of faithful living. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>



Knights of Columbus #5011 will be having a Holiday Potluck on Dec. 16th at ICC shortly after 4 PM Mass. All knights and their families are invited. Please contact Roger Peters at roger56peters@gmail.com or 530-515-5357; or James McClelland at

Jfm73@hotmail.com . We would appreciate knowing in advance what people plan to bring so there aren’t a lot of overlapping choices for the food.

“The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light.”

~ St. John of the Cross



What is the message on Our Lady of Guadalupe's mantle?

The arrangement of the golden stars on Our Lady's mantle carries a hidden significance.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is exquisite not only for its artistry and beauty. Each of its elements carries a deep meaning, including the golden stars that adorn the jade-green mantle of Our Lady.

The stars naturally represent her heavenly origins and her role as the Queen of Heaven. But their particular arrangement is just as important.



The stars are positioned *exactly as they would have appeared* on the morning of December 12th, 1531—when the miraculous image appeared on the tilma of Juan Diego.

And there's something else. The stars are actually a mirror image of what they would have looked like from an earthly perspective. They are arranged from the perspective of someone looking *down* upon them—from *God's* perspective, as though the Divine Artist had placed them according to His own celestial gaze.

And it's not only the visible stars that are significant. While no stars appear around Our Lady's head, if we overlay a (reversed) star map on the image, we find that the Corona Borealis—the Northern Crown—lays perfectly upon her brow. As the book of Revelation says: *"...a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."*

In fact, over Our Lady's breast is the constellation Virgo—the Virgin. And Leo the Lion is over her womb, where she carries, He Whom Scripture names the Lion of Judah.

Truly, only God could have created something so beautiful, so rich in meaning, so perfect in its construction, so theologically profound in its every detail!

<https://www.catholiccompany.com>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Prepare the way of the Lord." Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?



"The Son of God became a man to enable me to become sons of God." – Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis

The World Is Pregnant



There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen.

The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." — 2 Peter 3:13

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – Dec 07, 2023©Lpi

Questions of the Week:

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

~ 2 Peter 3:9

Adults: With whom could you be more patient this week, as God has been patient with you?

Kids: With whom can you be more patient?

www.pastoralcenter.com



Cathedral Decorating & Pizza Party

Thursday, December 21 from 5 to 7 PM.
Anyone wishing to help decorate the church and trim the tree in celebration of the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ is welcome to attend! Pizza and drinks will be provided for all who help in preparing the church for a beautiful Christmas!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 3, 2023: \$ 1,544.12

Actual Collection YTD 7/1/23-6/30/24: \$ 31,199.02

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

Visit WeShare for online giving at: www.stmarksuaf.org
In December - 3% of our collection will go the "Retirement Fund for Religious." This provides for retired members of religious communities in the USA who aren't provided for by diocesan priest retirement programs. Nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have prayed, ministered, educated, and cared for those in need. Please help and give generously to make a difference in providing them the essential care in retirement.

Prayer of the Faithful:

That we are called to live holy lives and invite others to do the same.



Pope Francis' November Prayer Intentions:

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Please Pray for: Pope Francis; Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P., Fr. Ross Tozzi, Fr. Piotr Oprych. Dcn. Warren Lucero; and all priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons serving in the Diocese of Fairbanks.

Pray that men and women will accept how God is calling them to serve as Mary responded to the angel Gabriel.

Pray for UAF students as face final exams this week; may they have a safe and relaxing Winter Break

Pray for members of St. Mark Parish and their extended families during the Advent Season.

Pray for all who are sick, their caretakers and medical providers.

Pray for victims of natural disasters; all suffering from the results of war and violence; may they find healing from physical and mental harm.

Pray for the repose of the souls of our faithfully departed. May the Lord grant them eternal happiness.

Pray for Vocations:

"A voice is calling." Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or reach out to Fr. Robert Fath, the Vocations Director at (907) 374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.



ICC Soup Kitchen needs the following items to help with their mission:

Food items needed: Granola bars, Fresh Fruit (Bananas, apples, oranges etc., Desserts, & Eggs
Clothing items needed: Hats, Wool Socks, & Gloves. VOLUNTEERS are always needed. Go to <https://www.iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen> for more information. The kitchen can be reached via email at iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org, or by phone at 907-452-3533, ext. 1003, or in person at the church between of 10am - 2pm.



DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese of Fairbanks is looking to fill the following positions: *Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinator, Faith and Family Formation Director and Digital Content Coordinator*. For more information about open positions visit <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings>. To request a formal job description, or to submit a cover letter and resume please email humanresouces@cbna.org.



The second candle represents **Peace**. It is called the **Bethlehem Candle** as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before she gave birth to Jesus. Bring this light of peace to others by participating in our 2023 "Reverse Advent" Calendar where we can give hope to others during this season and support the Immaculate

Conception Soup Kitchen. Suggestions are included. Details are on the calendar or go to <https://stmarks@uaf.org> to print it and begin the journey.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 16th century

Feast - Dec 12th Under this title, Our Lady is the patron of Mexico, the United States, and all of the Americas, as well as the protector of unborn children. In 1531, she appeared in a vision to the peasant Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City and charged him with asking the bishop to build a church on that spot. But the bishop demanded a sign, so Our Lady had Juan gather flowers in his cloak in December to take to the bishop. When Juan opened his cloak, the colorful image of Guadalupe was emblazoned on the cactus-cloth. That icon is preserved in the most famous shrine in the Western Hemisphere, and Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to inspire poor and oppressed people worldwide.



<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Advent-Calendar-2023>

4th Sunday of ADVENT

SHC Mass Schedule

12/23 (Sat) 4:30 pm Mass

12/24 (Sun) 8:00 & 11:00 AM
1:00 PM Spanish Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Sunday, Dec 24: 5:30 pm, 7:30 PM Vigil

Monday, Dec. 25: Midnight Mass at Midnight,
with Music beginning at 11:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, Dec. 25: 8:00 & 11:00 AM
and 1:00 PM Spanish Mass



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, Jenny Michaelson by calling (907) 374-9553 or emailing vac@cbna.org. For more information, access the Diocese safe environment link through

<https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/report-abuse>