



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

Unable to receive normal hosts?

Please arrive before mass and see the priest or sacristan (Jennifer Chown) about the availability of low gluten.

Catholic Student Association

Next Mass & Meeting on January 18, 2024.

LATIN MASS SCHEDULE:

Held at 6:00pm at SHC

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

Third Sunday in Advent, Cycle B December 17, 2023



First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

Responsorial: Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Mary sings praise to God.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

JOY



Dec. 17 Hymns for 5:30pm Mass

42 – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

40 – Come, Lord Jesus

39 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

51 – Waiting In Silence

68 – Creator of the Stars of Night

CALENDAR of EVENTS:

12/17: 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ **JOY**

12/17-23: Pray the **O Antiphons**

12/19: (Tue) 5-6PM "Peace in the Womb" Christmas Caroling Days @ 1879 Airport Way

12/20, 22, & 23: **Advent Ember Days**

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)

1/1/24 (Mon): Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
– Mass at 11 AM & 1 PM Spanish Mass



SUNDAY ADVENT MASSES BEFORE CHRISTMAS

12/23 - Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

12/24 - 8:00 & 11:00 AM; 1:00 PM Spanish Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE

12/24 - Christmas Vigil Mass 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT* MASS & CAROLS – 12/25

Christmas Mass 12:00* AM

Carols begin before Mass at 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

12/25 - 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM Spanish Mass



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

DURING WINTER BREAK (starting Dec 17th) MOST ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL AFTER THE NEW YEAR – 2024.

Oratory: For more information contact servidoras@cbna.org

Confirmation/Youth Group: 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.

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.

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 – 43janetf@gmail.com .

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.

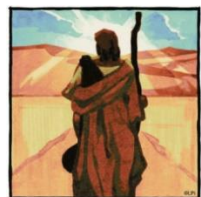
Franciscan Community – 6:30 pm on **1st Thursday of the month** at St. Raphael Church. For information contact Gloria Slagle stclare4@gmail.com

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.



A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light.

~ Jn 1:6-8

The Third Sunday of Advent is called “**Gaudete Sunday**,” derived from the Latin words “*gaudium*” – rejoice or be glad. There is joy in recalling the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas, heightened because he was born to save us from our sins! We are in the midpoint of the Advent Season. This year our Advent is abbreviated: with Christmas falling on a Monday, we have no Fourth Week of Advent, only that Sunday morning Mass on December 24th.

Rejoice!



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!

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE
Advent Penance Services
St. Raphael: Thursday – December 21, 7PM



Justice Challenge: December 18 is International Migrants Day. Migrant workers are often denied basic human rights—the right to a just wage or to safe working conditions or to benefits. They often have no voice in the decisions which affect their lives. Your challenge this week is to learn more about the work of the Catholic Church of the U.S. with Migrants and Refugees. Go online at www.usccb.org/mrs . Read some of the information provided by the Bishops’ Conference about the issue of migrants and refugees and how it connects to our Catholic faith. Then click on “How to Help” and choose one action on behalf of migrants which you as a family would like to do. Perhaps you want to read a statement by our U.S. Catholic Bishops or do advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees. You may want to volunteer or get your parish mobilized to help. It doesn’t matter what you choose to do; stand in solidarity with your brothers and sisters who move from farm to farm, from place to place, to find work just so they can feed their families and live in hope.

The Third Week of Advent:

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen www.xavier.edu

Focusing the Gospel

Key words and phrases: Who are you? I am not the Christ, the voice of one crying out, one who is coming after me

To the point: John the Baptist is sure about his own identity because he is sure about the identity of Jesus. John knows himself to be the precursor of the greater One yet to come, whose sandal strap he is not even worthy to untie. His self-knowledge enables John to be who God intends him to be: not the Messiah, but the one who points beyond self to the Messiah’s presence. If we are asked, “Who are you?” can we be so sure about our own identity in relation to Jesus that our lives too point to him? <https://liturgy.slu.edu>





What do the liturgical colors of Advent signify?

This December, instead of red and green, learn from the colors of purple and rose.

Once Thanksgiving has come and gone, our culture moves on quickly to the celebration of the Christmas season. All around us, there will be an explosion of Christmas reds and greens, holly and evergreen, ornaments, and wreaths. However, you might notice that your parish is colored a different way.



Rather than reds and greens, the altar is draped in a deep violet, the priests wear violet vestments, and our wreaths have candles of that same violet and a lovely rose.

Why does the Church abstain from the colors of Christmas until the 24th? And why do these seemingly random shades of violet and rose take their place?

It is because violet and rose are the liturgical colors of Advent. As a preparatory season, Advent does not yet share in the joy of Christmas. Rather, it anticipates it through penance and the practice of patient waiting.

Violet is the liturgical color that symbolizes penance, sacrifice, and prayer, and as such, it characterizes both Advent and Lent. Moreover, during Advent, we meditate particularly on the coming of our King at Christmas. In this way, the color violet—traditionally associated with royalty—takes on a dual meaning, representing both the penitential nature of the season and the kingship of the coming Christ.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (“Rejoice”) Sunday. On this day, we celebrate that our wait is almost over, and we witness the sudden introduction of a lovely shade of rose in our churches and our Advent wreath. As the liturgical color used to signify joy, rose is used in the third week of Advent in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

These colors of the Advent season are not arbitrary—rather, they are intentional reminders of how we should orient our hearts as we prepare for the coming Christ. While it is fine to join in the festivity around us, we must keep our hearts aligned with the Church during this season, joining in the hopeful and penitential anticipation of our coming Savior.

<https://www.catholiccompany.com>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Testimony



When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn’t until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn’t been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It’s okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

“He was not the light but came to testify to the light.”

– John 1:8

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – Dec 14, 2023©Lpi

Questions of the Week:

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation. (Isaiah 61:10)

Adults: What work of justice could you do this week to bring someone joy?

Kids: What could you do for someone this week to make them happy?

www.pastoralcenter.com



O Antiphons

A time of active waiting and eager anticipation for Christ’s coming.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 10, 2023: \$ 1,192.00

Actual Collection YTD 7/1/23-6/30/24: \$ 32,391.02

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.*

2023 Donations: The accounting system in the Parish Office will not allow us to post donations received after December 31, 2023, to your 2023 contributions. To be credited to 2023, they **MUST** be received by Sunday, December 31.

Prayer of the Faithful:

That we realize suffering is a gift and helps us build empathy for others and build our dependence on God.



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 for our priests traveling to rural parishes to provide a presence and offer mass during Advent and Christmas.

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

Pray we do not lose the joy of the upcoming birth of Jesus.

Pray for our parish, that we may be a community of prayers and joy.

Pray for those in need, may generosity of others bring them joy. For all working during the holiday – military, policeman, firemen, medical personal, retail, and others who work to support these industries.

Pray for all who are sick, hospitalized, or recovering from illness; and the grieving and depressed, may Jesus bring light into their lives.

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

Pray for Vocations:

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me.” God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to Fr. Robert Fath, the Vocations Director at (907) 374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.

Vocation Intercession

For a deeper trust and openness to the Holy Spirit in people discerning a call to serve Christ through the priesthood or in consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Read the newest edition of our Diocesan **MISSIONARY DISCIPLES** to the People of Northern and Western Alaska at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/diocesan-magazine>



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 (or family name) per

poinsettia plant. 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.

The **JOY** candle is also known as the “**Shepherd’s**” candle and signifies the joy of our coming Savior.

Mary said: “*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.*” -Luke 1:46-47. 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 on the calendar. Go to stmarks@uaf.org for more details and participate in giving for the holiday.



By a quirk of the calendar, which happens every five or six years, December 24th requires two obligations for Masses at Christmas time: This year, the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas are both days of obligation. These are two distinct obligations. There is an obligation to attend Mass for the Sunday, which can be fulfilled either Saturday evening after 4pm or Sunday during the day before 4pm. The obligation to attend Mass for Christmas can be fulfilled either Christmas Eve after 4pm (Sunday evening) or on Christmas Day at any time. One must go to Mass twice – meaning, you could go to Vigil Mass on Saturday, Sunday Mass in the morning, and Christmas later that same day or on Christmas Day (Monday). The next time this happens will be in 2028.

ICC Soup Kitchen needs all our help through volunteering or donating items that are needed to make their work possible. 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



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>