



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.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve & Day

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec. 24 - Christmas Vigil Mass 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS & CAROLS

Caroling begin at 11:30pm

Christmas Mass 12 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Dec. 25 - 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM Spanish Mass

Unable to receive normal hosts?

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

PASTOR

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

Fr. Piotr Oprych: poprych@cbna.org Ph: 907-347-9805

DEACON

Warren Lucero

Catholic Student Association

Next Mass & Meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024
Spring Semester begins (1/16/24).

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@alaska.edu

Pastoral Council

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

Finance Council

Marilis Bennett, Jen Tucker, Fr. Ross Tozzi

CALENDAR of EVENTS:

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)

12/31 (Sun): The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

1/1/24 (Mon): Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

– Mass at 11 AM & 1 PM Spanish Mass

1/2/24 (Tue): 12:30 PM SHC Book Club

4th Sunday in Advent, Cycle B The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) December 24, 2023



First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

The Lord delights in his people.

Responsorial: Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

The goodness of the Lord is praised.

Second Reading: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

God chose the people of Israel, and from them he raised up Jesus, the Savior for all people.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-25

After being visited by an angel in a dream, Joseph takes Mary as his wife.

May the Christ child born for us this Christmas bless us all!
May Mary and Joseph be our model, and may we find this time a renewal of our faith as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!
Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

Chancery Offices will be closed from Dec 25th - Jan 2nd.
Parish Offices will be closed from Dec 23rd - Jan 2nd.



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.

“All of the feasts of the Church are beautiful . . . but Christmas has a tenderness, a childlike sweetness that captivates my entire heart!”
—Padre Pio



The fourth candle of Advent is called the “**Angel Candle**” and symbolizes peace and the message of good news that the angel’s proclaimed on Christmas. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14). This week we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!



Justice Challenge: In this Sunday’s Gospel, we hear the angel inviting Mary to become the mother of the Messiah. Mary worried about doing this without breaking her promises to God. The angel replies with the story of Elizabeth being with child even though she was beyond the age of childbearing. The angel states, “...for nothing will be impossible for God.” Your challenge this week is to bring the Good News of Jesus and his message of possibilities to someone who has been weighed down by darkness or despair—due to illness, financial stress, relationship, problems, or whatever. As a family, choose one person—or one family—who needs you to remind them that with God, nothing is impossible. How can you help “liberate” this person or family from whatever is keeping them from living a free and full life? <https://pastoral.center>

The Fourth Week of Advent:
All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen www.xavier.edu

Focusing the Gospel
Key words and phrases: from God, The Lord is with you, conceive in your womb.
To the point: God comes. In this annunciation [Gospel](https://liturgy.slu.edu) God establishes a divine dwelling place in a most unexpected place—in the womb of Mary. The Word is made flesh by God’s initiative—it is God-given. By fixing a place (see first reading) for divinity in human flesh and blood, God fixes a place for us within the divine embrace. Truly, the Lord is with us. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>



Rejoice in the Miracle of Christ's birth!
May your path be lit by
the true meaning of Christmas
and fill your hearts and homes with love!

The Catholic Company presents



How long is the Christmas season?

Don't ditch your tree on December 26th. Christmas is just getting started.

One of the joys of being Catholic is that we accord our great feast days all the festivity they deserve.

For us, Christmas is not merely a one-day event that is over as soon as it has begun.

In fact, while Christmas Day itself is the 25th, the Feast really lasts a full 8 days: an octave. The Church celebrates her most sacred feasts with octaves. In the current calendar, Christmas and Easter have their own octaves, and in the older calendar, feasts such as Pentecost did as well.



And the season of Christmas doesn't end after the octave. Our celebrations continue through the "Twelve Days of Christmas," which end on the Feast of the Epiphany—January 6th, though it is often transferred to the Sunday between January 2nd and January 8th.

And still, we keep celebrating.

According to the current calendar of the Church, the Christmas season doesn't end until the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, which usually occurs on the Sunday following Epiphany.

According to the older calendar, the Christmas season goes all the way through February 2nd, the Feast of Candlemas. Also called the Purification of Our Lady, or the Presentation of Our Lord, this feast commemorates the day Our Lady went to the Temple to fulfill the requirements of the Mosaic Law forty days after Our Lord's birth.

Christmas is a *season*, not just a day. The Church invites us to celebrate this most glorious mystery of our redemption with *weeks* of rejoicing. Another happy effect of this arrangement is that we are able to observe Advent with a certain reserve, penitence, and anticipation—to use it as a true spiritual preparation for Christmas joy and festivities.

Even though the world forgets Christmas on December 26th, we encourage you to keep those decorations up and continue exulting with the angels at the coming of the Savior to earth!
<https://www.catholiccompany.com>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you."

—Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home." ~ G.K. Chesterton.

What is Your Fiat?



Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!"

"No worries!"

"Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not *exactly* disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all of the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – Dec 24, 2023©Lpi

Questions of the Week:

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Adults: How do you open your heart to what God wants for you? How do you follow the pathway that leads to happiness?

Kids: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

www.pastoralcenter.com



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 17, 2023: \$ 558.00

Actual Collection YTD 7/1/23-6/30/24: \$ 32,574.02

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" providing 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 like Mary, our lives, to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



Pope Francis' December Prayer Intentions:

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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

Pray for priests traveling to rural villages to celebrate Christmas Mass and return after the New Year.

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

Pray for God's grace to purify and strengthen the 12 days of Christmas virtues in us, as we strive to love and serve God and one another.

Pray for those in need, may generosity of others bring them joy. Remember all who are working during the holidays.

Pray for all who are homeless, sick, hospitalized, or recovering from illness. For 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:

"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to reach out to Fr. Robert Fath, the Vocations Director at (907) 374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.

Vocation Intercession

For men called by the Lord to be priests and consecrated religious, that the peace of Christ will guide their hearts and minds as they proclaim the good news of salvation to His people, we pray to the Lord.



ADORATION TIMES ~ Fairbanks & North Pole

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Thurs: 8 AM - 12 PM ~ Wed: 11 AM to 12 PM ~ Sat: 3 PM -4PM

Immaculate Conception Church

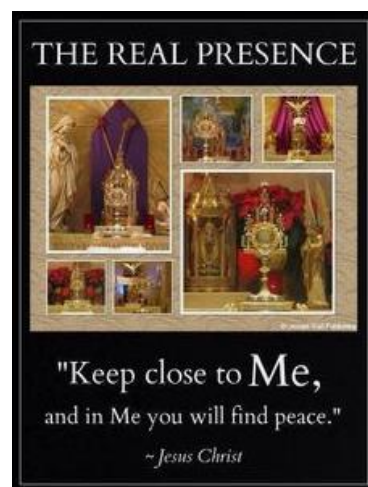
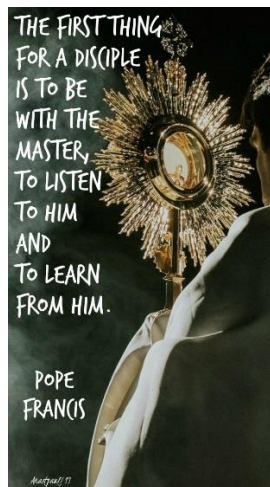
Tues: 7 PM - 8 PM ~ Wed: 6 - 7 PM ~ Sat: 3 - 4 PM

St. Raphael Catholic Church

Tues. & Thurs 8:30 - 9:30 AM ~ Wed. 4:30 AM - 5:30 PM
2nd Thurs 4 - 8 PM ~ Fri. 7 AM - 6 PM

St. Nicholas Catholic Church

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 8:00 AM



SAFE ENVIRONMENT/VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

POSITION HAS BEEN FILLED: The Chancery announced that Jocelyn Niedziela has been hired as our Safe Environment /Victim Assistance Coordinator! Her first day is 9 January 2024 and she will work part-time (3:30-6:30 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays) through May 2024. She will transition to full-time employment on 17 June 2024. Congratulations!

DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese of Fairbanks is still looking to fill the following positions: *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 humanresources@cbna.org.

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

Soup Kitchen Needs: Food items – Granola bars, Fresh fruit (bananas, apples, oranges, etc.), Desserts, Eggs. Clothing items: Hats, Wool Socks, Gloves.

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>