



# 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>

## 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.

## ST. MARK MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday Vespers:** 4:45 PM @ Sacred Heart Cathedral

**Confessions Offered:** Saturdays 3-4 PM at SHC and ICC.

**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*

## PASTOR

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

Fr. Piotr Oprych: [poprych@cbna.org](mailto: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@alasks.edu](mailto: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

## CALENDAR of EVENTS:

**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

**1/5/24:** 5:30 PM- 7:00 AM First Friday Devotions at ICC.

## Music for December 31st St. Mark 5:30pm Mass



**87** Angels We Have Heard On High

**85** O Little Town of Bethlehem

**97** What Child Is This

**81** Silent Night

**102** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

## December 31, 2023



### First Reading: *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*

*(or the first reading from Cycle A: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14)*

God fulfills his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.

### Responsorial: *Psalms 105:1-6, 8-9*

*(or the psalm from Cycle : Psalm 128:1-5)*

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness to his covenant.

### Second Reading: *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*

*(or the second reading from Cycle 1: Colossians 3:12-21)*

Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.

### Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:22-40*

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

**A Letter of Thanks** to all who contributed gifts of time, talent and treasure to the St. Mark and Catholic Student Association (CSA) faith community this past year. To our sacristan, musicians, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, altar servers, gift bearers, offertory counters, bookkeeper- Marilis Bennett, and all who helped to support our mission to support students at UAF through rides.

On behalf of St. Mark, I would like to thank our priests – Fr. Ross Tozzi and Fr. Piotr Oprych, - and Deacon Warren Lucero, for their tireless work and commitment in serving this parish and providing spiritual direction. Continue to support them through your prayers, kindness, and generosity. Seeing us at mass or seeking out confession is a gift in itself.

May all our parishioners and friends of the parish have a happy new year in which your relationship with Jesus Christ grows stronger! May God watch over you and bless you abundantly!

May you and your family have a Blessed New Year  
~ Mary Pat Boger, Parish Administrator



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

**Oratory:** For more information contact [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org)

**Confirmation/Youth Group:** Contact [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org) for more information.

**Voces Verbi Young Adult Group:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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 - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at the sister's convent. Contact the sisters for more info: [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto: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 **1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.** Contact: Janet Fortune – [43janett@gmail.com](mailto:43janett@gmail.com) .

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

**Knights of Columbus** –6:30 pm **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month** at St. Raphael Church. For information contact Gloria Slagle [stclare4@gmail.com](mailto:stclare4@gmail.com)

**Associates of the sisters of St. Joseph** – Contact Patty Walter at [pattywalter@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rfath@cbna.org) or Ph. 907-374-9504.

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

### Prayer for the New Year

Remember us, O God;  
 From age to age be our comforter.  
 You have given us the wonder of time,  
 blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.  
 Bless Your children at the turning of the year  
 and fill the months ahead with the bright hope  
 that is ours in the coming of Christ.  
 You are our God, living and reigning,  
 Forever and ever.  
 Amen.



### FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

at Immaculate Conception Church

- 5:30pm First Friday Latin Mass
- 6:00pm – 6:00am Nocturnal Adoration  
(please sign up for an hour of adoration at ICC)
- 6:00am Patriotic Rosary
- 7:00am First Saturday Latin Mass

Contact ICC at 907-452-3533 or [iccsecretary@cbna.org](mailto:iccsecretary@cbna.org) for more information.



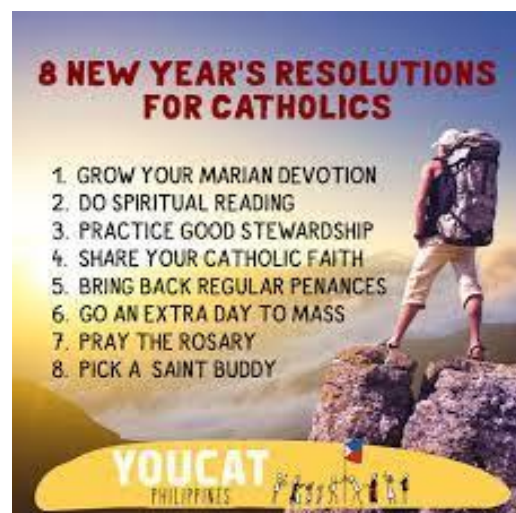
**Justice Challenge:** One of the most beautiful messages of Christmas is that of peace. The prophets of the Old Testament put their hope in a Messiah who would bring peace to a war-torn world. And that is what

Jesus did. In the Incarnation, we experience God's desire for all human persons, for all families and communities, and for all of creation (even lions and lambs) to live in harmony with each other. The angels proclaimed "peace on earth, goodwill to all" at Jesus' birth. Your challenge during this Christmas Season is to be people of peace in your actions, words and thoughts. Can you make it through the week without starting any fights or arguing with your family or co-workers? Can you share quiet moments of conversation instead of frantically running here and there? Can you rest peacefully in God's arms in your prayer time? What are ways you can be peace-makers instead of peace-breakers in your relationships during this special time of year? <https://pastoral.center>

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

**"...as the lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."** – Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker Pic up the phone of text someone right now.





## Why do we call the Holy Innocents martyrs?

*The youngest and most innocent gave their lives for Christ.*

Christmas is all things beautiful: consolation, awe, gratitude, and joy.

Yet during this happy time of year, the Church invites us to ponder and remember the violent deaths of some of our most glorious martyrs: the Holy Innocents.

Today, in the midst of our Christmas joy, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents, also known as Childermas. This feast commemorates the children slaughtered by the barbaric King Herod, whose goal was to kill the Christ Child and preserve his own power. The Holy Innocents died in Christ's stead so that He could die in ours.

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled,  
because they were no more.  
—Matthew 2:16-18

We consider the Holy Innocents to be some of the first martyrs of the Church. Although they were too young to proclaim Christ with their voices, they proclaimed Him with their lives. When they sacrificed their lives for a Name they did not know, they shed their blood just as He would later in His life. The Holy Innocents died because of Him and for Him. They gave their precious lives so that God's plan could be fulfilled in Him.

Although these innocent children were not baptized Christians nor able to enter martyrdom willingly, they are considered martyrs through Christ. Just as Christ makes saints of babies in water baptism every day, he gave the Holy Innocents the grace of becoming saints and martyrs.

While our Christmas joy is tinged with sadness on this particular day, we celebrate these children's glorious place in heaven and their incredible gift to us all.

Now, the Holy Innocents reign in heaven in the company of the saints and angels. Often, because the saints dwell in heaven, we think of them as distant and different from us. However, this is not true! The saints lived lives like ours and long for us to join them in heaven. Dr. Scott Hahn's beloved book, *Angels and Saints – A Biblical Guide to Friendship with God's Holy Ones*, is a powerful account of the lives of the saints that demonstrates how we can model our own lives off their own very human ones. By exploring the variety of saints (and some angels too!), this book becomes a roadmap to living a saintly life just as they did.

<https://www.catholiccompany.com>

## The Sword and the Family



In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

*"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..."*

— Colossians 3:12

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – Dec 28, 2023©Lpi

### Questions of the Week:

**"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "will your descendants be."**  
(Gen 15:5)

**Adults:** What does your family do to honor and respect its oldest members?

**Kids:** Who are the oldest people you know, and what can you learn from them?  
[www.pastoralcenter.com](http://www.pastoralcenter.com)

~ Aim at heaven and you will get earth "thrown in":  
aim at earth and you will get neither.

~ C.S. Lewis ~

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**December 24, 2023: \$ 2,765.41 -**

**Actual Collection YTD 7/1/23-6/30/24: \$ 35,714.43**

*Thank you for your generosity and continued support!*

Visit WeShare for online giving at: [www.stmarksuaf.org](http://www.stmarksuaf.org)  
In December - 3% of our collection will go to 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. *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 God will provide us the strength to forgive those that have hurt us .



#### 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 members of the St. Mark Parish; and the safe return of all who are traveling during the holidays.

**Pray** for those in need, may generosity of others bring them joy; and those struggling in this economy.

**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.

#### Prayer for Vocations:

"The Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit, for He will save His people." Is the Holy Spirit leading you to share your gifts as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to Fr. Robert Fath, the Vocations Director at (907) 374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org).

#### Vocation Intercession

That Catholic mothers and fathers will help their children grow strong in their faith, filled with the wisdom of God, and encourage openness to vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

#### Sacramental Guidelines

Anointing of the Sick, Homebound: Please keep Fr. Ross Tozzi, Fr. Piotr Oprych, or the Parish Office of Sacred Heart Cathedral or St. Mark's informed of anyone who is homebound, hospitalized, seriously ill or wishes to receive Holy Communion or Anointing of the Sick. Contact parish offices at 907-374-9564 (St. Mark) or (Sacred Heart) -

### SCAM ALERT!

No one from the Parish Office or the Clergy will send you text or email asking for a favor. **Do Not Reply to either.** Block the number and delete the text.

### 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 [humanresouces@cbna.org](mailto:humanresouces@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](mailto: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](mailto:vac@cbna.org). For more information, access the Diocese safe environment link through <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/report-abuse>

