



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.

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 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@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:

1/13 (Sat): 1:15-2:45 pm Oratory; Religious Education
Classes 3-4:15pm

1/16-24: Nine Days for Life <https://9daysforlife.com>

1/18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

1/19: Retrouvaille Marriage Healing Program in Anchorage.

1/20: National March for Life – Washington D.C.

1/22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children

2/3 - 3/16: Marriage Class-Winter Session

2/23 - 25: Engaged Encounter Weekend

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most cleansing, grace-filled experiences of our faith.

Before making a resolution, make a confession.

Check out "Before Making a Resolution..." at <https://bustedhalo.com>

January 7, 2024



First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

January 7th St. Mark 5:30pm Mass Music

107 We Three Kings

108 What Star Is This

112 The First Nowell

99 O Come, All Ye Faithful



Pope Francis' January Prayer Intentions:



For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Pope Francis call for prayers to the Holy Spirit "to help us recognize the gift of different charisms within Christian communities and to discover the richness of various ritual traditions within the Catholic Church."



Religious Education: Oratory from 1:15-3:15pm; Religious Education Classes 3-4:15pm. 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.

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

Winter Marriage Preparation Classes: Feb 3, 10, 17 and March 2, 9, and 16. Contact Fr. Ross Tozzi at rtozzi@cbna.org or call (907) 347-3005.

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: February 23-25. Please register for when registering for Marriage Preparation Classes.

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.

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.

REGIONAL SOUP KITCHEN Needs:

Food items—Granola bars Fresh Fruit (Bananas, apples, oranges etc.), jelly, Desserts, Eggs. **Clothing items needed:** Hats, Wool Socks, Gloves. Warm sleeping bags. For more information about the soup Kitchen or to help, go to: <https://iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen> or call (907) 452-3533 to speak with someone in the office at Immaculate Conception Church.



Marriage Class – Winter Session 2024

Sacred Heart Cathedral

February 3 – March 16 2024

The Cathedral is offering a city-wide marriage preparation course using the Beloved Series on six Saturday Mornings this winter. We invite all those interested – engaged or thinking about marriage – to learn the ABC's of how to have a healthy, happy, and holy relationship.

Sessions will take place in the Cathedral Social Hall on Feb 3, 10, 17, and March 2, 9, and 16. Also, please register for the Catholic Engaged Encounter Feb 23-25.



Justice Challenge: In Sunday's Gospel we hear the story of the "astrologers from the east" who came to pay homage to the Infant Jesus. They remind us that Jesus was a universal Savior. He came to redeem all of us,

including the lepers and tax collectors and prostitutes. He even reached out to the hated Samaritans, although it was forbidden by law to have any type of contact with them. Your challenge this week is to explore how open you are to the "Samaritans" in your life—those people who are different from you in their faith, their ethnicity, their politics, or their lifestyles. Then do two things. First, find something you share in common with this group. Recognize your common humanity. Second, learn one new thing about this group that you didn't know before which is worth celebrating. It might be a prayer practice you could embrace, or a recipe for their food which you could try. It could even be a new way of caring for God's creation. Open your heart to be stretched, get out of your comfort zone, and discover the face of God in the Samaritans around you! <http://www.pastoralcenter.com>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." – Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

Questions of the Week ~ Overcoming Jealousy

Then Herod sent the [magi] to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." (Matthew 2:8)

Adults: When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

Kids: When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

www.pastoralcenter.com

Questions of the Week ~ Pleasing to God

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11)

Adults: Do you ever feel that you are a beloved child of God and God is well-pleased with you?

Kids: When do you feel most loved?

www.pastoralcenter.com

*The greatest gifts we can give to each other,
is to pray for one another.*



What can the Epiphany teach us?

With its few simple traditions, the Epiphany is a beautiful and powerful feast!

Christmas is not over yet! In fact, one of the most glorious feasts of Christmastide is right around the corner. The Epiphany is one of the Church's major and spectacular feasts. It occurs on January 6th, the final day of the 12 days of Christmas.

This is the day the Church commemorates the Magi arriving to give homage to the newborn King of Kings with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



However, as we celebrate the Magi's arrival, we are not merely celebrating a past event.

Rather, we are celebrating a current reality: the coming of all the Gentile nations, those not initially a part of Our Lord's chosen people, into the

Kingdom of God. On the Epiphany, we are celebrating God's invitation to us to come worship at the feet of Our Lord.

That is why the Epiphany is such a glorious feast and worth celebrating each year!

From our Eastern brothers and sisters, we can learn much about celebrating the Epiphany.

For the Eastern Church, Epiphany is the celebration of not one, not two, but three 'epiphanies,' or revelations of Christ: the arrival of the Magi with their kingly gifts, the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, and Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. These three biblical events are theophanies, or visible manifestations of Who Jesus really is—God Incarnate.

The Eastern Church also has several beautiful traditions to help commemorate this wonderful day. Here is a helpful guide to a few of these traditions for your family to partake in this year:

Blessing of the Homes: The Epiphany is the traditional time to have your home blessed by a priest for the New Year. If it isn't possible for a priest to come, the head of the household can preside over the ceremony, which includes prayers and sprinkling the rooms with holy water specially blessed for Epiphany. After the ritual, mark the entryway of the home with chalk (see further explanation below). For suggested prayers for the blessing, see the USCCB's Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany.

Blessing of Chalk: In the blessing of the homes, you use blessed chalk to mark the doorways. (Your parish should be able to provide Epiphany water and blessed chalk to perform these blessings.) The long-standing Epiphany tradition of marking churches, homes, schools, and other buildings with a special "holy formula" over the entryway follows a formula similar to the blessing of the Paschal Candle at Easter. This formula for Epiphany includes the current year along with the initials C, M, and B in the order shown below.

20 + C + M + B + 24

[continued next column...]

[...continued from column to the left.]

The C, M, and B are placed in between the numbers of the current year, with crosses in between each symbol. The three letters have two significations: the invocation **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** ("Christ bless this house"), as well as the first initial of the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

You can use unblessed chalk if necessary for this aspect of the ritual. You can also use regular holy water for the blessing of the home if you can't obtain Epiphany water.

Blessing of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh: There is also a special Epiphany blessing in honor of the original Christmas gifts. The faithful can have their parish priest bless items of gold (such as wedding rings and rosaries), myrrh for medicinal use, and frankincense that can be used during the Epiphany home blessing and other liturgical feasts (such as Easter).

<https://www.catholiccompany.com>

Step Into the Light



How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory." — Isaiah 60:2

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – Jan 04, 2024©Lpi

The next Retrouvaille Marriage Healing Program in Alaska begins **Jan. 19, 2024**. Phone [907-863-8000](tel:907-863-8000), or go to: www.HelpOurMarriage.org

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. ~ C.S. Lewis

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 31, 2023: \$ 1,501.00 -

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.stmarksuaq.org. Our December collection allowed us to donate \$225 for the USCCB Retirement Fund for Religious. Thank You!

2023 Donations: 2023 Tax Contribution Statements will be mailed out before January 31st.

Prayer of the Faithful:

That, like the Magi, we generously share our gifts with the Lord, trusting He will provide all that we need.

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 the Church and to all who strive to bring the light of Christ into the world.

Pray for peace in areas of conflict and violence; and for all impacted by the political upheaval.

Pray for students, faculty, and staff returning to school this week. May they accomplish the goals they have set before them. **Pray for** the sick, the suffering, the elderly, the lonely, and all who find themselves on the margins of society, that they may be empowered by God's special care of them

Pray for those who have died, that they may rise to life everlasting.

Pray for Vocations:

"For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people." Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, or priest? 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

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) - 907-474-9032



"I see in my neighbor the Person of Jesus Christ."

-Saint Gerard Majella

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.



Justice Challenge: The First Reading on **Baptism of the Lord** talks about the mission of the Messiah, and Isaiah clearly proclaims that it includes bringing justice to the earth. Isaiah writes, "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations..." Your challenge this week is to reflect on how important justice is in YOUR life. Do you seek it, not just for yourself and your family, but for all those who suffer from injustice—in the local community, in the U.S., and across the world? Do you speak out when you see someone being treated unjustly? Pray that you can be a person of justice in whom God can be well-pleased as He was with His Son.

ADORATION TIMES ~ Fairbanks & North Pole

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Wed: 11 AM to 12 PM ~ Thurs: 8 AM - 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

"You will see and be radiant,
and your heart will thrill and rejoice."



SAFE ENVIRONMENT/VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR POSITION HAS BEEN FILLED: Jocelyn Niedziela 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.

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>

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which was celebrated on Jan 3rd.

