A drawing of a dragon

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceST. 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 & Confession Schedules**   
Sunday Vespers: 4:45 pm at SHC. Vesper Music can be accessed at St. Mark’s website <https://stmarksuaf.org>   
Sunday Mass: 5:30 pm at SHC   
Unable to receive normal hosts? Please arrive to mass early and see the priest or sacristan (Jennifer Chown) about the availability of low gluten hosts.

For our homebound, Fr. Ross Tozzi homilies can be heard by going to [https://sacredheartak.org/](https://sacredheartak.org/chs) and click on “*homilies*.”   
Confessions: Saturdays 3-4 PM at SHC and ICC.   
Thursday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8am-12pm at SHC.

**PASTOR**  
Fr. Ross Tozzi: [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto:rtozzi@cbna.org) Ph: 907-347-3005  
**DEACON**Rev. Mr. Warren Lucero  
**LATIN MASS SCHEDULE**:   
Held at 6:oopm at Sacred Heart Cathedral  
**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

 **Catholic Definition: Rosary**A devotional prayer, mental and vocal, honoring the Blessed Mother of God. It is the most popular of all nonliturgical Catholic devotions and has been highly recommended by many popes. <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/>

Need a Priest? - Please contact Fr. Ross Tozzi (907-347-3005), St. Mark’s Office (907-374-9564), orSacred Heart Cathedral Office at (907) 474-9032.

**CALENDAR of EVENTS:**

**10/4-6:** Annual Rosary Congress at ICC **10/5:** 9-10:15 AM Session 1 (of 3) Baptism Instruction (SHC)  **10/5:** ORATORY Starts for kids 5-17 – 1:00-2:45 PM (SHC)  
**10/7:** 12:30 PM SHC Book Discussion Group - Downstairs **10/12:** 11 AM Choir practice for Christmas Concert  
10/12: HIPOW **–** Support our Catholic Schools **10/18-20:** Catholic Engaged Encounter at St. Nicholas

**10/18:** FYNDout Free Fundraiser 6-8PM. To register go to <https://fyndoutfree.com> or call 907-455-8255

Annual Rosary Congress: October 4-6, 2024, at ICC!! Adoration Friday – Sunday. Guest speakers, Prayer & Devotion for Our Lady’s Peace Plan for Heaven! Want to know more about the history behind this national movement, go to [Eucharistic Rosary Congresses](https://rosarycongressusa.org/).

**October 6, 2024**RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY **27th Sunday in Ordinary Time** **First Reading: *Genesis 2:18-24***  
 God creates a woman from Adam’s rib.  
**Responsorial: *Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6*** A prayer for God’s blessing. **Second Reading: *Hebrews 2:9-11*** Christ was made perfect through suffering so that we might all be consecrated.  
**Gospel Reading: *Mark 10:2-16*** Jesus teaches against divorce and welcomes the children.   
 Music of the Mass **597**  I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light **485**  What Wondrous Love is This **675** When Love is Found **488** Love Goes On  
**561** O Bless the Lord, My Soul

*Heritage Mass parts found on pages 890-897.*

A person and person standing in front of a door

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“I came so that they might have life.” John 10:10



Oratory **Every Saturday** downstairs at Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC) from 1-2:45PM. Ages 5-17.   
  
Religious Education - **Every Saturday** after Oratory from 3-4:15 PM. Contact [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org) for more information.   
  
Confirmation/Youth Group - Classes held every **Thursday** from 5:30-6:30 PM. Youth Group Dinner provided. 7:45 PM pick up @ SHC. Contact M. Way of Salvation at [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org) or call (907) 987-9595 for more info.   
  
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA): **Tues**, 7-8:30pm at SHC. Those interested are encouraged to attend classes and build a familiarity with the Catholic Faith.

Voces Verbi – Meets at 6:00 PM **Friday** for Adoration, Pizza, and formation for Young Adults 18-35. Held at Immaculate Conception Church (ICC).

Sacred Heart Book Club Discussion Group – Meets Oct 7th -12:30 PM downstairs in SHC Community Room 1st Monday of the month. For more contact: [43janetf@gmail.com](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com)   
   
Regional Soup Kitchen at Immaculate Conception - Serving Hours are **Sat. & Sun**. only, from 1-3pm. Volunteers and items needed. Contact ICC at 907-423-3533 ext. 1003, or email [iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org](mailto:iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org)   
  
SHC Friday Food Boxes: Calls are taken from 10-11am **Friday**. Volunteers unload boxes upon delivery from Foodbank around 12:15pm and distribute them to clients in the parking lot until 1:oo pm. Please call Deborah at 907-474-9032 for details.

SHC Voices of Hope Prayer Group – Meets 6-8:30 PM **Tue**, downstairs in SHC kitchen for light potluck. Contemplative prayer meeting in community room ending in rosary at 8:30 PM.

Men’s Group: 7:30 PM at ICC **every Thursday**. Adoration - followed by meeting downstairs.

Voices in the Wilderness: 6:30 PM at ICC **every Friday**. Contact Joe Malen 388-2550 or Annie Dobbs 479-8567.

St. Nicholas’ Mother’s Group: 10AM – Noon **every Tuesday**. Multi-Generational Support and Conversation. Coffee, snacks, and Child Care provided. All mothers of the Dicoese are invited to be a part of this group. Call or Text April at 907-347-1357.

ICC Our Lady of Fatima: Contact Shannon Christensen at (907) 388-1825.

Knights of Columbus: 6:30 PM **2nd Thursday** of the monthdownstairs @ SHC. Become an active part in the civic lives of our country, states, and local communities.

Legion of Mary: 6PM **Monday** Legion of Mary Meetings ~ ICC.

A group of dedicated women and men doing the Blessed Mother Mary’s work.

Franciscan Community: 6:30 PM on **1st Thursday of the month** at St. Raphael Church. For information contact Gloria Slagle [stclare4@gmail.com](mailto:stclare4@gmail.com)   
  
Marriage Preparations – Contact Fr. Ross *six (6) months prior to wedding -*  rtozzi@cbna.org or call (907) 347-3005.

Christmas Concert Choir practice starts up on October 12th at Sacred Heart Cathedral. If you’re interested in joining, show up next Saturday as they prepare for another beautiful display of musical talent!

A cake with chocolate drips and chocolate on top

Description automatically generatedHIPOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need servers, runners, and spotters for the HIPOW Auction & Dinner this Saturday (Oct 12th.). Help make this year’s 55th Auction & Dinner be a great success! Find out about ALL THINGS HIPOW at [www.hipowauction.com](http://www.hipowauction.com) or call 907-313-2191 or email [pwalterscsf@catholic-schools.org](mailto:pwalterscsf@catholic-schools.org) .

*HIPOW Dinner/Dessert auction still looking for dessert donations! Talk with Marilis Bennett after mass on Sunday!*

A painting of a person holding a baby

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The month of October is dedicated to the[**Holy Rosary**](https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/10_1.cfm)**.** The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7.

**Diagram

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A black and white drawing of a person holding children

Description automatically generated**Justice Challenge**: On October 11 we honor Blessed John XXIII. This is the pope who shepherded the Second Vatican Council. He also wrote several encyclicals, one in his last year of life in which he focused on war and peace. In Pacem in Terris (or Peace on Earth), Pope John wrote that the root cause of war is people not getting the resources they need to live a life of dignity. We know that there are enough resources in the world to support all of God’s people. But some have too much while others don’t have the barest necessities of life. Your challenge this week is to ask yourselves (as individuals and households) if you have too much, if you over-use resources while people around the globe are starving or living in despair. If you answer yes to this question, choose one thing you have which you can donate to someone in need. Drop it off at the St. Vincent de Paul Society or a local shelter to take one step toward ensuring lasting peace in our world. <https://pastoral.center>  
  
***Connecting to the Gospel…* … to the First Reading:** This familiar story from Genesis reveals that “from the beginning of creation” God intended that we humans live in community and be in life-giving relationships with each other and all of creation.   
**… to experience:** Hardness of heart can be easier than openness of heart because the former focuses us on ourselves. In the end, however, such hardness of heart destroys self and relationships. The only way to real fulfillment of self is through openness to others. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>  
  
 ***Childlike Faith*Jesus said, *“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:15)*** **Adults:** What could keep you from embracing the kingdom of God like a little child?   
**Kids:** How do you feel when you hear the wonderful stories of God’s love for you?

What is it that stands higher than words? ACTION.  
 What is it that stands higher than action? SILENCE.   
~ St. Francis of Assisi  
  
From Busted Halo read:  
Father Donald Calloway: [10 Wonders of the Rosary](https://bustedhalo.com/podcasts/father-donald-calloway-10-wonders-of-the-rosary)

**A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generatedDid you know hot chocolate has Catholic roots?***Being a Catholic sure is sweet!* It’s almost hot chocolate season.

As the days get a little cooler, crisper, and shorter, a warm mug filled with a cozy beverage is beginning to feel like exactly what we all need.

If hot chocolate is your drink of choice, you may be surprised to learn that your favorite cozy drink wouldn’t be what it is today if it wasn’t for Catholics!

A cup of coffee with a heart in the foam

Description automatically generatedIt all begins with the ancient Mayan and Aztec civilizations, where a frothy, bitter chocolate drink called xocoatl was a common beverage. Made from ground cacao beans, water, and spices like chili, it bore little resemblance to the sweet, creamy concoction we know today. Luckily for us, Catholics soon stumbled upon this drink and made a few sweet adjustments.

When Spanish conquistadors led by Hernán Cortés encountered the Aztecs in the early 16th century, they took note of this strange, dark drink served by Emperor Montezuma himself. But it wasn’t until the Spanish brought cacao back to Europe that chocolate’s transformation began.   
   
At first, the drink remained quite bitter, and it didn’t immediately catch on. But as cacao spread through Spain, it underwent a Catholic refinement.

Monks in Spanish monasteries were among the first to experiment with the cacao beans, adding sugar, cinnamon, and milk to tame its bitterness. They recognized that chocolate had potential not only as a satisfying treat but also as an aid to their rigorous fasting routines. Drinking chocolate was not considered breaking the fast, as liquids were permitted even when food was not. This made it a perfect solution for priests and monks during Lent and other periods of religious fasting.

From Spain, hot chocolate spread to Italy, where the Catholic elite, particularly within the Vatican, embraced it with enthusiasm. The Italian Jesuits, known for their missions in South America, were instrumental in promoting chocolate back in Europe. By the 17th century, hot chocolate had become popular in French and Austrian courts as well, especially when Italian-born Queen Marie Thérèse of France made it her drink of choice, influencing royal tastes across Europe.

What’s fascinating is how chocolate became entwined with Catholic hospitality. In monasteries and convents, visitors were often offered a cup of hot chocolate as a gesture of warmth and generosity. Even today, in some parts of Spain and Mexico, traditional hot chocolate is still prepared for special Catholic celebrations, like Christmas and feast days. <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed>.  
  
The Seven Sisters Apostolate   
Everday, three members of the Apostolate pray a holy hour for a specific clergy. This year, the Holy Hours are devoted to prayers for Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P.   
If you love Intercessory prayer, consider joiningh the Seven Sisters Apostolate. Contact Katie Reed at 907-348-7300 for more information.

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)  
The Hardness of Your Hearts   
As far as I know, no one has ever woken up in the morning, looked out the window, and thought, “This is a beautiful sunrise. I’ll have to be very careful not to let it make me happy.”

But I’m certain that every day, lots of people — including, on not-infrequent occasions, myself — have woken up and remembered something that happened the day before. Something that made us feel upset or frustrated or insulted. And we thought to ourselves, “That makes me so, so angry.” And we’ve pictured the face of the person who made us feel that way, and we have scoffed with disgust.

And we hold onto that anger because anger feels so much better than sadness. And deep within ourselves, in the place where we feel all the love and pain and confusion that is inherent in human existence, we harden.

Nobody ever intends to be hard-hearted. That’s just the stuff of Bond villains and horror flicks. No, in real life a hardened heart isn’t a conscious choice. It’s a reflex. It’s just us trying to protect ourselves, to be strong — or, at least, to embody the version of strength offered by a fallen world.

A heart of stone is not so easily scratched, you see. But it’s also not so easily warmed or touched or moved.

A heart hardened by resentment and pain and anger is not just protected from injury. It is protected from the impact of the whole spectrum of tender feelings. It is not open to forgiveness, so it cannot feel the rush of life-giving mercy. It is closed off to new ideas, so it can never feel the awe of discovery.

There is a reason we are called to guard ourselves against hard-heartedness. God gave us hearts of flesh and blood. They are hearts that can be broken, yes — but also, they are hearts that can be made new. Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman –September 26, 2024©Lpi

A red and black text

Description automatically generated Fall Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat  
18-20 October 2024 at St. Nicholas Church For more information or to register online, visit the following site: <https://fairbanks.engagedencounter.com>. Couples can also email [fairbanks@engagedencounter.com](mailto:fairbanks@engagedencounter.com) with any questions .   
  
ADORATION TIMES **~** Fairbanks & North Pole **Sacred Heart Cathedral**Thurs: 8 AM - 12 PM ~ Sat: 3 -4 PM   
**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

“It is not “Progressive” to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life.” ~ Pope Francis

God Formed each of us and knows us intimately. Psalm 139:13-16

PARISH STEWARDSHIP Sept 29, 2024: $ 1,837.00   
Actual Collection YTD (7/1/24-6/30/25)   
 $ 23,892.91   
Parishioner Count: 129   
Your financial stewardship is a blessing. Thank You! Visit WeShare for online giving at: <http://www.stmarksuaf.org>. *For the month of October, 3% of our collection will go towards World Mission that supports Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which assists Mission work throughout our diocese.*

A person in a white shirt

Description automatically generatedPope Francis’ October Prayer Intentions: **For a shared mission.**We pray that the Church continues to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.   
Please Remember in your prayers (+): Pope Francis; Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P., Fr. Ross Tozzi, and all our priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons working within our diocese.   
+ The protection of human life, from conception to natural death.   
+ Fr. Sean Thomson, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVF, and Cedric Grace – for a complete recovery; for priests in Anchorage with serious illnesses - Fr. John Hinsvark, Fr. Dick Tero, Fr. Eric Weissman, and Fr. Scott Medlock.  
+ The daughter of Mary & Jim Cerney. Pray for complete recovery for her and comfort to her family.   
+ Families and friends of the St. Mark Community.   
+ The repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

**Prayer Support:** If you need prayers for any intention, please contact our parish office at 907-374-9564 or email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org). Help keep us informed if you are homebound, hospitalized, seriously ill, or wish to receive Holy Communion or Anointing of the Sick.   
  
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – Priesthood Sunday   
“Whoever is not against us is for us.” Pray for your priest. They heard God calling them to the priesthood and chose to serve Christ. Now, they enrich our spiritual well-being every day in the name of God.   
   
 S**TEWARDSHIP MOMENT   
*“So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.” Genesis 2:19*** The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the start, God has put the entire world into our care. Second, Stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind, it isn’t something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.

A cartoon of a sheep

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News from St. Raphael:   
**Bonfire!!** The Knights of Columbus would like to remind everyone of the Bonfire night on February 4th. This is a family event open to all ages. Campfire stories, snacks, and hot beverages. Please bring a chair to sit around the fire. Dress accordingly for a chilly night.   
**Funeral Mass** for *Carol Mattison* will be on Monday, Oct. 7th at 2 PM. All are invited to attend. Reception will be held afterward in the social hall. If you have questions about donations, please contact the parish office at (907) 456-6603 or email [secretary@straphaelfairbans.org](mailto:secretary@straphaelfairbans.org).  
**Blessing of animals** in honor of St. Francis of Assisi’s Feast after weekend masses on Sat (Oct. 5th) and Sun (Oct 6th). There will be a printed prayer to take home to pray over your pets for those who cannot bring their pets to church.

Donations needed for **Regional Soup Kitchen at Immaculate Conception Church** to help in the cold:   
**Clothing items**: New warm socks, long underwear, hats, scarves, gloves, travel size toothpaste.   
**Food items**: Hot chocolate, sugar, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, fruit, protein bars.

A gold and white cup with a cross on top

Description automatically generatedFor all those not able to receive our LORD in the Eucharist you can recite the following:   
An Act of Spiritual Communion My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart, as though You have already come. I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.   
  
Send letters of prayers of full recovery and support to **Fr. Sean Thomson** and his family:   
 Diocese of Spokane   
 Attn: Fr. Sean Thomson   
 525 E. Mission Ave   
 Spokane, WA 99202   
Prayers and support for CSA Alumni **Cedric Grace** and his young family can be sent to the following address where they will be staying for the time being (Miranda’s parents):   
 Cedric & Miranda Grace   
 129 Fork Mountain Rd   
 Parsons, WV 26287   
Both Fr. Sean and Cedric Grace continue to show signs of improvement, but both have a long road to recovery.

Read the [Fall 2024](https://files.ecatholic.com/31014/documents/2024/8/DOF%202024%20Fall%20AK%20Shepherd.pdf?t=1724083043000) issue of The Alaskan Shepherd and read about St. Mark parishioners and former CSA members - Alex and Harlee Harvey & family are doing about passing on their Catholic faith in Point Hope.   
Missionary Dicsciples [September 2024](https://files.ecatholic.com/31014/documents/2024/9/2024-02-ministering.pdf?t=1726248367000) issue is online. Learn of Bishop Maekawa, O.P.’s recent travels around the diocese reaching off the road parishes and other updated news from around the Diocese. [https://dioceseoffairbanks.org](https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/)   
If you think you have an article of interest to others to share, contact David Schienle at [dschienle@cbna.org](mailto:dschienle@cbna.org) to publish in the next issues.   
  
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, Jocelyn Niedziela 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>