



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 & 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 early

and see the priest about the availability of low gluten hosts.

Adoration at SHC – Thursday @ 8AM & Friday @ 3PM.

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

PASTOR

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

DEACON

Rev. Mr. Warren Lucero

LATIN MASS SCHEDULE:

Held at 6:00pm 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

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: : Hope

The confident desire of obtaining a future good that is difficult to attain. It is therefore a desire, which implies seeking and pursuing; some future good that is not yet possessed but wanted, unlike fear that shrinks from a future evil. This future good draws out a person's volition. Hope is confident that what is desired will certainly be attained. It is the opposite of despair. Yet it recognizes that the object wanted is not easily obtained and that it requires effort to overcome whatever obstacles stand in the way. (Etym. Latin spes, hope.)

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/>

CALENDAR of EVENTS

12/8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

12/7-8: SHC Hospitality Bake Sale after weekend Masses.

12/9 (Mon): Immaculate Conception

Masses at SHC – 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 7:00 PM.

12/10 (Tue): 6:00 PM **Advent Retreat Talks** with

Fr. Charles Olweny at SHC

12/12 (Thu): 5:30 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass in

Spanish

For our homebound, Fr. Ross Tozzi homilies can be heard by going to <https://sacredheartak.org/> and click on "homilies."

Need a Priest? - Please contact St. Mark's Office – (907)-374-9564 or Sacred Heart Cathedral Office at (907) 474-9032.

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

December 8, 2024



First Reading: *Baruch 5:1-9*

The Lord will fulfill his promises to Israel and Judah.

Responsorial *Psalm 126*

The Lord will teach us his paths.

Second Reading: *Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11*

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be holy and to please God.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:1-6*

Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory.

2nd Sunday of Advent hymns of the Mass

73 The Advent of Our King

42 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

67 Creator of the Stars of Night

59 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Heritage Mass parts #'s 890-897.

Mass of Creation for Amen #870. (NO GLORIA during Advent or Lent)

The 2nd Sunday of Advent | Peace: On the 2nd Sunday of

Advent, we light the second candle on our Advent wreaths, recalling the importance of the upcoming journey. The *second candle* on the Advent wreath represents peace, the peace that would finally exist after the division of the kingdom in the Old Testament. Also called the "Bethlehem Candle,"—reminding us of the journey taken from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Christ and the peace to come.

Christmas Mass Schedule for Sacred Heart Cathedral:



December 24th (Tue): 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM (*St. Mark Choir*)
Midnight Mass with music beginning at 11:30 PM

December 25th (Wed): 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM Mass in Spanish

DECEMBER ADVENT SCHEDULE

The following is for Sacred Heart Cathedral *unless noted otherwise*:

- ❖ **Dec 9** (Mon) – Immaculate Conception
(*Holy Day of Obligation*) –
Masses are 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 7 PM
- ❖ **Dec 10** (Tue) – 6 PM Advent Retreat Talk with Fr. Charles Olweny. Reflect on the beauty of the season of Advent.
- ❖ **Dec. 12** (Thurs) – Our Lady of Guadalupe – 5:30 PM Mass in Spanish
- ❖ **Dec 15** (Sun) – 3rd Sunday of Advent
- ❖ **Dec. 16** (Mon) – Communal Penance Service
6:30 – 8:00 PM at SHC/ICC
- ❖ **Dec. 17** (Tues) – One Simbang Gabi Mass at *Immaculate Conception Church*
- ❖ **Dec. 19** (Thu) – Communal Penance Service
6:30 – 8:30 PM at St. Raphael
- Dec. 20 (Fri) – Communal Penance Service
6:30 – 8:30 PM at St. Nicholas in N.P.
- ❖ **Dec 22** (Sun) – 4th Sunday of Advent
- ❖ **Dec. 29** (Sun) – Feast of the Holy Family.
Regularly scheduled Masses.



MONDAY

Sacred Heart Book Club Discussion Group – January Book: *“The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise”* by Robert Cardinal Saray c.2017. For more information contact: 43janetf@gmail.com

Bible Study Monday Nite – 6:30 PM *every other* Monday in the SHC Social Hall, hosted by Michael Olsta (Office of Faith & Family Formation).

TUESDAY

Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA): 7–8:30 PM at SHC.

Voices of Hope Prayer Group: 6:30-8:30PM at SHC. All are welcome!

THURSDAY

Confirmation/Youth Group – Confirmation – 5:30 PM; Youth Group 6:30–8:00 PM. Questions—Contact M. Way of Salvation at servidoras@cbna.org or call (907) 987-9595.

Men’s Group – Adoration: 6 PM; studying St. Thomas Aquinas at 7 PM at ICC.

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

FRIDAY

SHC Friday Food Boxes - Calls taken from 10-11am. *Volunteers needed to help distribute to clients in the parking lot 11 AM - 1:00 PM.* Please call SHC on 907-474-9032 for details.

Voces Verbi – Meets at 6 PM for Adoration, Pizza, and formation for Young Adults 18-35. Held at ICC.

SATURDAY

Christmas Choir Practice – 11 AM at SHC for Christmas Concert set for Dec 26th. Contact ICC at 907-987-9598 or email iccsecretary@cbna.org for more information.

Oratory – 1:00 PM at SHC.

Religious Education - 3–4:15 PM at SHC.

Religious of the Incarnate Word 3rd Order Meetings – 6PM *every other Saturday* at Monroe School. Formations talks – Games for kids in the gym. All who are interested are welcome to attend!

Young Adults: 7:00 pm Game Night at SHC – Dec. 14th. Contact Diocesan Office of Faith and Family Formation (OFFF) Director Michael Olsta at 907-374-9526 or olsta@cbna.org.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Regional Soup Kitchen at Immaculate Conception - Serving Hours are from 1-3pm. Volunteers and items are needed. Contact ICC at 907-423-3533 ext. 1003, or email iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org

EVENTS & GROUPS OF INTEREST

Spiritual Exercises – Dec. 26-30 Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men Starts Thursday @ 5PM – Ends @ 7PM at ICC. Contact seridoras@cbna.org

Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat for engaged couples - 28 February – 2 March 2025 at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. For more info go to: Fairbanks.engagedencounter.com.

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

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

The Seven Sisters Apostolate – Everyday, 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 joining. For more information, contact Jan Fortune at 43janetf@gmail.com.

For events at St. Nicholas or St. Raphael go to their websites: <https://straphaelfairbanks.org/> and <https://stnicholasnp.org/>



Justice Challenge: This week we celebrate two important feasts of Mary — the Immaculate Conception on December 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Even though she was conceived without sin and became the Mother of God, Mary never ceased to be an advocate for the poor. In her Magnificat, she praised God for lifting up the meek and the lowly. And she told Juan Diego, a poor indigenous Mexican man, that he had dignity and that she loved him. This week’s challenge is to pray in solidarity with those of Mexican descent who have a special devotion to Our Lady. If your parish doesn’t have a special celebration the morning of December 12, find one that does and join in serenading this special woman. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting to the Gospel...

... **to the First Reading:** Isaiah gives us a vision of the eschatological end times when the full flowering of repentance is made visible.

... **to experience:** GPS devices have taken the meandering out of our road trips and guaranteed smooth travel toward our destination. Repentance is the “GPS” of our Gospel journey toward final glory. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>



Prayer of Repentance

John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3)

Adults: In what areas of your life do you need God’s forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?

Kids: What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?

<https://pastoral.center>

The second candle, also purple, represents peace. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The Catholic Company presents



Well, what DID Mary know?

The popular Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?" gets a few things wrong...

You probably know the song, or at least one of its many covers. "Mary, Did You Know?" has been a constant Christmas classic since its release in 1984. You can't turn on the Christmas radio station or shuffle a Christmas playlist without it coming on.

As beloved as this song is, it may surprise you that it is not unconditionally accepted by Catholics...and for good reason! Some have recognized that, despite its focus on Mary, this song employs some revisionist history on Mary's role in salvation history.

Let's take a closer look:

*"Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you."*

Firstly, Mary did know much of what the song speculates about. Through her familiarity with Scripture, Mary knew a great deal about the identity of the Messiah, particularly His miracles, His deity, and His offer of salvation. Moreover, through the Annunciation, Mary was made aware that the Child she would bear would be the Savior of the world. Knowing what she did of the prophecies of the Messiah, Mary largely understood what the role of mother to the Messiah would require.



This is why her fiat, her willful and complete "yes" to Our Lord, is so striking. Knowing what would be asked of her—including the great suffering she would endure—Mary willingly showed herself the perfect handmaid of the Lord.

Secondly, the song speaks of Mary's salvation as though it hadn't happened yet. However, unlike us, Mary was preserved from all sin at the moment of her Immaculate Conception, in view of her Son's future sufferings. Through the merits of her Son, applied to her in advance, Mary was created perfect so as to be the perfect vessel for the Christ Child.

While the song is erroneous in its speculation, it is not wrong for you to enjoy "Mary, Did You Know?" Just keep in mind the powerful reality of Mary's foreknowledge and Immaculate Conception!

"Mary, Did You Know?" is not alone in its erroneous perceptions about Mary. Unfortunately, Our Blessed Mother has been misunderstood for centuries, even by devout Catholics! To know Mary is to know her Son, so it is important to understand the Church's teachings on Mary.

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed>.



How can we stay strong in our faith?

Cultivate thankfulness. Thank the Lord for three things each day. A spirit of thankfulness kills a bitter heart and helps us to see that truly everything is a gift from the Lord. Whether the Lord gives or the Lord takes away we must bless His name. It also gives us the vision to see what God desires for us.

<https://www.amadorcatholic.com>

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment) The Straight Path



Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

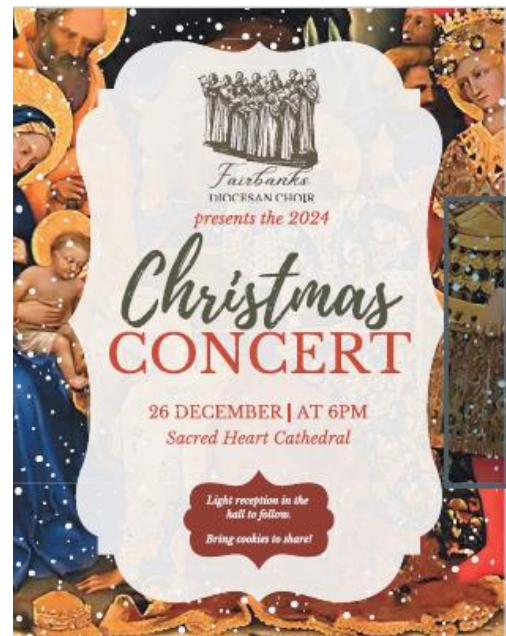
I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine. Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path. Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – December 5, 2024©Lpi





Sunday Collection

December 1: \$ 1,438.00
Actual Collection YTD
7/1/24-6/30/25):
\$ 34,050.41
Number of Parishioners: 109

We appreciate your generosity and continued support! Visit WeShare for online giving: <https://www.stmarksuaf.org>
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2024: Instead of our usual 3% we will have a second collection on **Dec. 8th** the second collection will be for the **Retirement for the Religious.**

Pope Francis' November Prayer Intentions: **For anyone who has lost a child.**



We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Please Pray For: Pope Francis; Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P., Fr. Ross Tozzi, and all our priests working within our diocese as they gather in Fairbanks this week for Priest Day.
+ World leaders, elected officials, and first responders.
+ Peace in our world, in our homes, and in our hearts
+ Students taking end of semester exams this week at UAF before leaving for Christmas/Winter Break.
+ Those who sick and in need of healing – physically, mentally, or spiritually.
+ Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, Kerri Cerney, John Fox, Ben Orr, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Deborah Leibe, and all who are sick or with long-term illnesses needing our prayers.
+ Remember our deceased loved ones who have gone before us.

Prayer Support: If you need prayers for yourself or someone else, please contact our parish office at 907-374-9564 or email: stmark@cbna.org. Keep us informed if you are homebound, hospitalized, seriously ill, or wish to receive Holy Communion or Anointing of the Sick.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS –

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Luke 3:4) John the Baptist's call to prepare for Christ can also be a call to prepare your heart for a vocation. Is Christ calling you to serve Him as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Director at rfath@cbna.org or talk to your priest.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

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>



Retirement Fund or the Religious

Today, we take up the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This campaign is crucial, benefiting more than 24,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have been faithful servants within the Church, devoting their lives to service.

Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising healthcare costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities.

Your contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious play a vital role in providing necessary financial support. This support enables religious communities to care for their aging members while ensuring that the younger generation can carry forward the invaluable work of their elders.

Please consider contributing when asked and giving what you are able. Above all, please add your prayers for God's continued blessings on all our women and men religious, who keep you in their prayers as well. Together, let us support the many religious women and men who have made enormous contributions to our Church and to the world.



Sacramental Prep or Records – Contact the parish office at 907-374-9564 or Fr. Ross Tozzi –rtozzi@cbna.org or call (907) 347-3005.