



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: Greater Antiphons

A form of chant introduced in the West about A.D.500, displacing the responsorial form. The antiphons to Vespers on the seven days before Christmas Eve, each beginning with the invocation "O," hence also called the "Great O's" as follows: O Wisdom, O Sacred Lord, O Flower of Jesse's stem, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of all the nations, O Emmanuel. <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/>

CALENDAR of EVENTS

12/15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

12/16: (Mon) 6:30-8 PM Communal Penance Service at Sacred Heart Cathedral for SHC/ICC/St. Marks

12/17 (Tue): One Simbang Gabi Mass at ICC

12/19 (Thu): 6:30-8:30 PM Communal Penance Service at St. Raphael's.

12/20 (Fri): 6:30-8:30 PM Communal Penance Service at St. Nicholas in North Pole.

12/22 (Sun): 4th Sunday of Advent



12/24 (Tue): 4:30 & 7 PM Christmas Vigil Masses at SHC

12/25 (Wed): 12Midnight Mass w/music beginning at 11:30pm; 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM Spanish Mass

12/26-29: Spiritual Exercises for Men at ICC

12/26: (Thu) 6 PM Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart Cathedral

Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

December 15, 2024



*Gaudete Sunday:
The Third Sunday in Advent*

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

A savior is promised to Israel.

Responsorial Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

A song of praise to God our savior.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice always because the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

3rd Sunday of Advent hymns of the Mass

43 People, Look East

51 Waiting in Silence

63 Ready the Way

65 Litany for Advent

41 On Jordan's Bank

Heritage Mass parts #'s 890-897.

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



The 3rd Sunday of Advent | Joy: While

Advent and Lent share the violet vestments, the sacrificial practices, and the spirit of penance, Advent looks forward to the incredible joy of our Savior's birth. We have been waiting for this moment for millenia, and now it is near at hand. What could bring us more happiness than the arrival of God's greatest gift to us?

Communal Penance Service—Several Priests will be available at the Communal Penance Services this week. Please make time to prepare and attend. The week of Christmas will be very busy for our priests, and some will be sent out to cover villages that normally don't have priests available starting next weekend.





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: 43janett@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

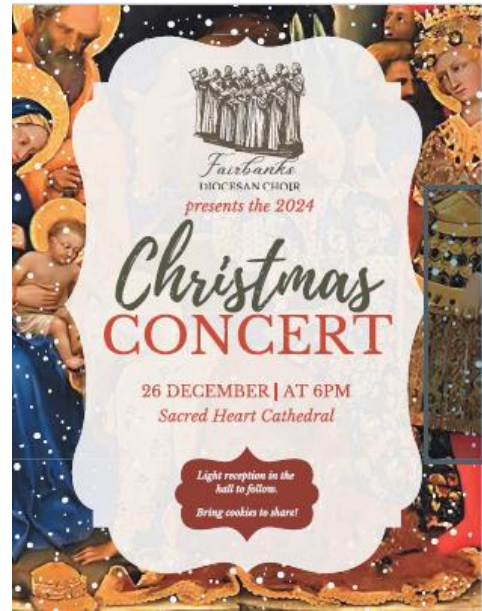
Spiritual Exercises – Dec. 26-30 Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men Starts Thursday @ 5PM – Ends @ 7PM at ICC. Contact seridoras@cbna.org

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. For more information, contact Jan Fortune at 43janett@gmail.com.



YEAR OF HOPE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 OPENING MASS

11AM DECEMBER 29TH, 2024
SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL



Justice Challenge: December 15 is our national celebration of the Bill of Rights. December 18 is the Islamic New Year. The Bill of Rights protects some of our most sacred freedoms, among them freedom of religion. Our Catholic faith calls us to practice our faith

and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others while showing respecting for the faith of others. This week’s challenge is to advocate for someone who is denied freedom of religion. This can be done through political action, prayer, or supporting the right of Muslims to worship God in their particular way. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting to the Gospel...

... to the First Reading: The First and Second Readings both speak of rejoicing and suggest to us that the cause of our joy is Christ (“in your midst, a mighty savior;” “The Lord is near”). Christ is always being enfleshed in our midst.

... to experience: All of us have experienced the sheer goodness of another person, the utter joy of an event, the complete surprise of intimacy. With reflection we conclude that we have indeed experienced the nearness of Christ in the flesh among us. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>



The Joy of Kindness

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
(Philippians 4:4-5)

Adults: What might John the Baptist challenge you to do differently in your life?

Kids: Do you have extras that you can share with others this week? <https://pastoral.center>

Local Schools Winter Break –
December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025



This saint was kidnapped by brothers in his own religious order...

St. John took the name “of the Cross,” and of the Cross he would be.

St. John’s crosses began before he took the name of John of the Cross as a religious brother.

Born into deep poverty in 1542, St. John lost both his brother and his father while still a youth.

After receiving a religious education in his childhood, John entered the Carmelites in 1563, at the age of 21. Slowly, he began to desire a more simple and austere life (the Carmelites had not yet regained many of the sacrificial practices for which the order is well-known today). He became a priest and then considered joining the Carthusians, but an encounter with Teresa of Ávila, and her vision of reforming the Carmelites, changed his mind. John decided to join the future saint in her efforts.



While some friars did embrace St. John’s leadership, others opposed him adamantly, and at times even violently.

In 1577, disgruntled members of John’s community kidnapped and imprisoned him. For nine long months,

John was kept in a cell so small that he could barely lie down. He was fed only bread and water and was lashed on a weekly basis. The only possessions in the cell were a prayer book and an oil lamp...well, and the secret writing materials smuggled to him by the frightened but sympathetic friar who guarded his cell.

It was during these long, dark, painful months that St. John of the Cross composed and recorded some of the most beautiful Spanish mystical poetry the world has ever known. On scraps of smuggled paper, he wrote incredibly moving stanzas based on the biblical book the Song of Songs and his own experience with physical, mental, and spiritual darkness.

Eventually, John escaped his captors and rejoined St. Teresa to continue the Carmelite reforms, traveling around Spain to establish new monasteries. His feast is celebrated today, December 14th.

St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila’s work to reform the Carmelite order bore much fruit, both for the order and for the whole world. Their spiritual writings have earned them both titles as Doctors of the Church and have transformed the souls of thousands.

Want an easy, approachable way to dive into the mystical spirituality of St. John and St. Teresa? Fr. Thomas Dubay’s book *Fire Within: St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and the Gospel on Prayer* was written for you. Created specifically for laypeople to learn and embrace contemplative prayer, this book is the perfect guide for developing a deeper prayer life according to the method of these two great saints.

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

Mass Intention Requests – Mass Intentions may be offered for friends or loved ones, living or deceased. Just call the parish office at (907) 374-9564 or Sacred Heart Cathedrals Office at (907) 474-9032.

Asking the Question



I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” that his reply was not going to be: “Keep doing exactly what you’re doing.”

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That’s a hard thing to do, and I don’t do it enough. Too often, I’m afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – December 5, 2024©Lpi



How can we stay strong in our faith?

Advent Penance Services: Advent is known as the “little Lent” and is therefore a time for penitential practices. Many Catholic parishes have special penance services for Advent. Confession is an important part of preparing room for the coming of Christ into our hearts, that is, allowing Him to draw us into deeper conversion. <https://www.catholiccompany>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God’s image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.



Sunday Collection
December 8: \$ 851.58
Actual Collection YTD
7/1/24-6/30/25):
\$ 34,901.99
Number of Parishioners: 112

We appreciate your generosity and continued support! Visit WeShare for online giving: <https://www.stmarksuaaf.org>
2nd Collections for the Retirement for the Religious came to \$714.28. From our total for December we will take 3% of the total for the Diocese of Fairbanks Special Collections. Thank you for your generous donations!

Advent table donations came to \$87 that will go towards purchasing candles and calendars for our 2025 Advent.

Pope Francis' December 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.

- + Justice and peace in the world, especially in areas of conflict.
- + Our faith to grow stronger during this Advent journey.
- + All who are sick, the suffering, the elderly, the lonely and all who find themselves on the margins of society, that they may find the help they need
- + Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, Kerri Cerney, John Fox, Ben Orr, John Fox, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Deborah Leibe, and all who are sick or with long-term illnesses needing our prayers.
- + Those who have died and their family who are grieving.

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 –

"Rejoice in the Lord always." (Philippians 4:1)

Are you filled with joy at the Lord's invitation to serve Him in priesthood or consecrated life? This deep sense of joy is a sign that God may be calling you to share His love with others in a special way. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Director at rfath@cbna.org or talk to your priest.

Rose Sunday – The rarest of liturgical colors, rose vestments are used only two Sundays of the year: the third Sunday in Advent and the fourth Sunday in Lent. Their use is not required, but the symbolism is ancient and beautiful. In Advent, the usual color is violet and has a twofold meaning: it is the traditional color of penance and also of royalty. The darkness of the world without Jesus that we recall in this season is lifted and brightened by joy on Gaudete Sunday. The opening prayer and readings of the Mass urge us: Gaudete! (Rejoice!) because salvation is near. Rose is a lighter shade of the violet that shows this joy as we look forward to the coming of the king of kings and the fulfillment of God's promised salvation.

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>.

Silent Ignatian Retreats—Spiritual Exercises

MEN
Dec. 26-30
Starts Thursday @ 5:00pm
Ends Monday @ 7:00pm

WOMEN
Feb. 13-17
Starts Thursday @ 5:00pm
Ends Monday @ 7:00pm

Contact:
servidoras@cbna.org

Registration:



DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese of Fairbanks is now hiring a **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. This is a full-time, exempt position with benefits. Salary DOE. To apply, submit a cover letter, résumé, and three references to humanresources@cbna.org by **6 January 2025**. For a detailed list of job duties and other information, please visit <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings>.

Sacred Heart Part-time Outreach Coordinator

Responsibilities include Stephen Ministry Outreach, Safe Environment, and Emergency contact for citywide callout of priests to respond to people in danger of death or in special need of pastoral visits. Please submit a letter of interest, a resume, and three references to Rev. Ross Tozzi, Sacred Heart Cathedral. rector@cbna.org or Ph: (907) 347-3005 with questions.

St. Raphael Lay Pastoral Minister

Responsibilities include assisting the priest and parish staff with seasonal & special celebrations preparation and coordination through ministry. Coordinating volunteer ministries, planning reflection and faith building materials, coordinating and recruiting volunteers who assist the parish in ministry and service. developing beautification strategies through seasonal decorating among some of the duties. The lay pastoral minister is a part time position with flexible hours. If you are interested in this position with St. Raphael Parish, please contact the parish office by calling (907) 457-6603 or email: staphaelcatholicparish@gmail.com.



Flocknote allows us to send notes to all in the parish via text messages or emails. You don't have to download anything or create a login or password to participate. Please take a couple of minutes to sign up to receive email or text messages. You're even able to reply directly back to messages so we can get feedback and hear from you in an efficient manner. Your information is kept totally private. You can update your communication preferences or subscribe at any time.

Some of you are already signed up on Flocknote by registering with St. Mark University Parish and can ignore this message. For those who haven't – to sign up,

TEXT: SMDOF

TO: 84576

Or sign up online at:

SACREDHEARTAK.FLOCKNOTE.COM/STMARKPARISH