



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.



Sacred Heart Cathedral Christmas Schedule

Dec. 24 Vigil Mass - 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Dec. 25 Midnight Mass - 12:00am (music begins at 11:30 PM)

Dec. 25 11:00 AM (will be live streamed)

Dec. 25 - 1:00 PM Spanish Mass

CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

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

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

12/29 (Sun): 11 AM Mass opening the Year of Hope

Jubilee Year 2025 with Bishop Steven J. Maekawa, O.P.

St. Mark Mass & Confession Schedules

Sunday Vespers: 4:45 pm at SHC.

Sunday Mass: 5:30 pm at SHC

Unable to receive normal hosts? Please arrive early and ask the priest about the availability of low gluten hosts.

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

The Chancery will be closed from **24 December 2024 to 1 January 2025** in observance of Christmas and the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The office will reopen on Thursday 2 January

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

December 22, 2024



First Reading: *Micah 5:1-4*

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm *80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

A prayer for God's salvation.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-45*

Mary visits Elizabeth who sings praise to Mary and her child.

4th Sunday of Advent hymns of the Mass



39 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

684 Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

694 O Sanctissima (*Latin verses*)

Virgin Great and Glorious

60 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

Heritage Mass parts #'s 890-897.

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

The 4th Sunday of Advent | Love.

"And in the end, everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child, and Love." – St. (Pope) John Paul II

The fourth candle represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the **Angel's Candle**, the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth. <https://hallow.com>





* Check group/class regarding Christmas Season Cancellations*

MONDAY

Sacred Heart Book Club Discussion Group – January Book: *“The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise”* by Robert Cardinal Saray c.2017. 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

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 next meeting will be in January. 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.



Justice Challenge: Christmas falls on Wednesday of this week. Sometimes in the midst of gifts and parties we forget the real purpose of this celebration, the Second Person of the Trinity incarnating and becoming one of us. Jesus came as a poor person to stand in total solidarity with those who have little. This week’s challenge is to reflect on all the things you have, including the gifts you will be receiving this week, and what you will do with them in light of so many of your brothers and sisters across the world having so little. What are you willing to share? <https://pastoral.center>

Focusing the Gospel..

Key words and phrases: how does this happen to me, the mother of my Lord should come to me.

To the point: Mary went in haste to Elizabeth’s house, entered, and greeted her. Elizabeth recognized and responded to the mystery taking place. She expressed astonishment, wonder, amazement: “how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” An even greater astonishment, wonder, amazement: the Lord himself comes to us. How do we respond?



<https://liturgy.slu.edu>

Obedience to God’s Will

Elizabeth said, “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:45)

Adults: When was it hardest for you to trust in God’s plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

Kids: When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

<https://pastoral.center>



How can we stay strong in our faith?

Ask yourself – Do I serve others with love and compassion? Am I willing to be unpopular for taking stands in defense of Christ’s teachings? Do I share the beauty and truth of my Catholic faith with others? Do I set a good example for others in how I practice my Catholic faith? Consider the obstacles that impede our desire to integrate our lives and demonstrate signs of faith. Saint Paul tells us that we should “...rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

integratedcatholiclife.org



It’s Christmas every time you let God love others through you.
Mother Teresa



The Catholic Company presents



What are the “Twelve Days of Christmas”?

This phrase is mentioned throughout the Christmas season, but do we know what it really means?

This phrase is mentioned throughout the Christmas season, but do we know what it really means?

*“On the first day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
A partridge in a pear tree.”*

We all know the song. It’s quite long. Our eyes usually glaze over before it wraps up with the “partridge in a pear tree.”

What *are* the “Twelve Days of Christmas” anyway? Where are they on the calendar?



A 15th-century illuminated manuscript showing the Adoration of the Magi

The Twelve Days are a very old celebration of Christmas. They are far older than the song cited above, which was first written in Elizabethan England. The Twelve days cover the gap between Christmas Day and Epiphany.

Many people think that the “Twelve Days of Christmas” are the days *leading up* to Christmas, with Christmas being the twelfth day and grand finale. Christmas, however, is

the *beginning* of the twelve-day celebration, which continues through the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th.

In the Liturgy of the Hours, each of these days has the prayers and readings of Christmas Day. That means that each of the Twelve Days are treated as Christmas Day itself. This makes a lot of sense—after all, we are celebrating *God born in the flesh*. We couldn’t possibly fit all our wonder and jubilation into just one day! <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed>.



“That the Creator is in his creature and God is in the flesh brings dignity to man without dishonour to him who made him. Why then, man, are you so worthless in your own eyes and yet so precious to God?”

~ St. Peter Chrysologus

For those who have been asking ~ Fr. Sean Thompson is at the Providence St. Joseph Care Center in Spokane, Washington, a nursing care facility providing the rehabilitation necessary for his long recovery. Please keep him in your prayers. Mail can be sent to him at:

Fr. Sean Thompson
Room 236
17 E 8th Ave.
Spokane, Washington 99202

*“Lord, wrap the sick in Your love;
may Your healing touch be felt.”*

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment) The Hidden Truth



If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do not know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I’ve had this happen to me, and sure, it’s a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it’s also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It’s why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary’s swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It’s real and it’s true and it’s there.

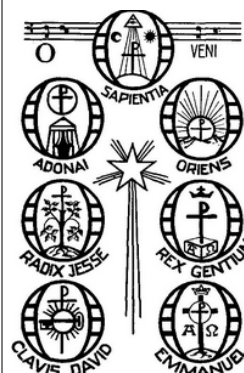
And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don’t we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We’re like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it’s because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it’s there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it. Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – December 19, 2024©Lpi

The “**O Antiphons**” of Advent have been sung since at least the eighth century from December 17-23. They use ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. To hear it sung in Latin, go to: <https://shamelesspopery.com/day-7-o-emmanuel/>



December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:

come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)

[Isaiah 9:5; 2:4](#)

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:

Come to save us, Lord our God!

O Emmanuel (God with us) [Isaiah 7:14](#)

Sunday Collection

December 15: \$ 762.00

Actual Collection YTD

7/1/24-6/30/25):

\$ 35,7675.99

Number of Parishioners: 109



Thank you for your continued support! Visit WeShare for online giving: <https://www.stmarksuaf.org>

2024 Donations: The accounting system in the Parish Office will not allow us to post donations received after December 31, 2024, to your 2023 contributions. To be credited to 2024, they MUST be received by Tuesday, December 31.

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.



Pope Francis' December Prayer Intention ***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, Rev. Dcn. Warren Lucero; and all priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, and volunteers serving in the Diocese of Fairbanks.

Pray for all priests traveling to rural parishes to help celebrate Christmas 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 Catholics everywhere as they gather to celebrate the joy of the birth of our Lord.

Pray for all who are sick, hospitalized, or recovering from illness; especially: Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, Kerri Cerney, John Fox, Ben Orr, John Fox, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Deborah Leibee, and all who are sick or with long.

Pray for the repose of our faithfully departed. May the Lord grant them eternal happiness and peace to their families.

Pray for the soul of Randy McGilvary (12/22/62-07/08/95).

Mass Intentions may be offered for friends or loved ones, living or deceased. Just call the parish office on (907) 374-9564 or Sacred Heart Cathedral's Office on (907) 474-9032.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS –

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45)

Like Mary, you are called to trust in God's plan for your life. If you feel that God is asking you to serve as a priest or religious brother or sister, believe in His promise and follow with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Director at rfath@cbna.org or talk to your priest.



TO ALL ~ MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE
MERRY & YOUR NEW YEAR BRING JOY
AND GOOD HEALTH!



December 2024 Daily Readings may be found at
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings>

Saints of the Week found at
<https://www.catholic.org/saints/sofd.php>



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: straphaelcatholicparish@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

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>.