



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.

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.

SHC Adoration: Thursday 8AM-12Noon & Saturday 3-4PM

SHC Confessions – Saturday 3-4PM or by appointment.

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@alaska.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

12/29 (Sun): Feast of the Holy Family

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

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

**12/31: 7PM SHC Vigil Mass for Holy Mother of God.*

**1/1/2025: 11AM SHC Mass for Holy Mother of God*

**Holy Day of Obligation.*

1/13/2025 (Mon): First day of instruction at UAF

1/15 (Wed): 6:30PM CSA Campus Mass & Mtg at Lola Tilly

SHC Adoration: Thursday 8AM-12Noon & Saturday 3-4PM

Catholic Definition: Devotion to the Holy Family

Although the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is very prominent in the Gospels, popular devotion to them on a large scale began only in the seventeenth century. General confraternities, on an international scale, were created to promote this devotion. Among modern popes Pius IX in 1847 and Leo XIII in 1892 encouraged these organizations and gave them official approval. In the new revised liturgy the Sunday within the octave of Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family, with its own special Mass and Divine Office.

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

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.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph December 29, 2024



First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Hannay dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Those who dwell in the Lord's house are happy.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

We are God's children now.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

Music of Mass for Feast of the Holy Family

102 O Come, All Ye Faithful

105 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

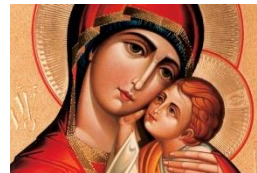
101 What Child is This
Personent Hodie

109 Angels We Have Heard On High

90 Joy to the World

Heritage Mass parts #'s 890-897.

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



An **OCTAVE** is the eight-day period (during which Christmas 90r Easter) is celebrated, From Christmas until January 1st, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God, is the Octave Day of Christmas.

The days in-between are varying levels of feast days (St. Stephen, St. John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents, and the Holy Family). Prior to the Second Vatican Council octaves were numerous in the Latin Rite. A commemoration was offered at Mass and in the Divine Office each day of the octave, and precedence was given over any other feast.



**Faith Formation Classes resume the week of 1/7/2025.*

MONDAY

SHC Club Discussion Group – Meets 1st Monday of the month 12:30-2:30PM downstairs in the Community Room. January Book: “*The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*” by Robert Cardinal Saray c.2017. Contact: 43janetf@gmail.com

Bible Study Monday Nite – Meets December 30th at 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. Next Meeting is January 14, 2025. 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 43janetf@gmail.com.

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



Justice Challenge: During the Christmas season, we reflect on the images of peace that the prophets said would come when the Messiah arrived on earth. We hear about lions and lambs lying down together and of swords being beaten into plowshares. January 1st is World Day of Peace. Yet we live in a world in which war and violence shatter the peace for which the Old Testament prophets yearned. All of us as one global family are called to do our part to bring peace to our world. Your challenge this week is to be a peace-maker—in your family, with your friends and colleagues at work or school, in your community. How can you bring people together, encourage others to settle disputes without resorting to violence, or advocate for global peace?

<https://pastoral.center>

Focusing the Gospel...

Key words and phrases: looked for him, look for him, looking for you, Why were you looking for me, in my Father’s house, obedient to them, advanced in wisdom

To the point: Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus. In reality, this describes our own Christian living. We look for Jesus when we, like him, seek to be in God’s presence; when we, like him, choose to be obedient; when we, like him, grow in wisdom. Along the way we discover that Jesus enlarges where we look for him, how we find him, and what new understanding comes to us through our encounters with him. This is the pattern of faithful Christian living that brings us to fullness of life. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>



Obedience to God’s Will

Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. (Luke 2:51a)

Adults: How would you have reacted if you were Mary and Joseph finding Jesus in the Temple?

Kids: What do you think it was like for Jesus to be in the Temple for three days without his parents?

<https://pastoral.center>



How can we stay strong in our faith?

We are responsible for evangelizing and educating our family about the Faith. “Thus the little domestic Church, like the greater Church, needs to be constantly and intensely evangelized: hence its duty regarding permanent education in the faith...the family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates...the future of evangelization depends in great part on the Church of the home.” (#51-52) <https://integratedcatholiclife.org/>

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, celebrates Mary’s essential role in bringing Jesus, God made flesh, into the world. Through her faith and obedience, Mary embraced God’s plan and became the Mother of Jesus. This feast honors her as the Theotokos, a title that recognizes Jesus as both God and man.





What is “St. Stephen’s Ride”?

Come on, it’s lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you!

That’s what families in Scandinavia might have traditionally said to one another on St. Stephen’s Day!

In that region, families would bring their horses to the church on St. Stephen’s Day to be blessed by the priest before riding them around the church triumphantly. The day might then be crowned with a sleigh ride!

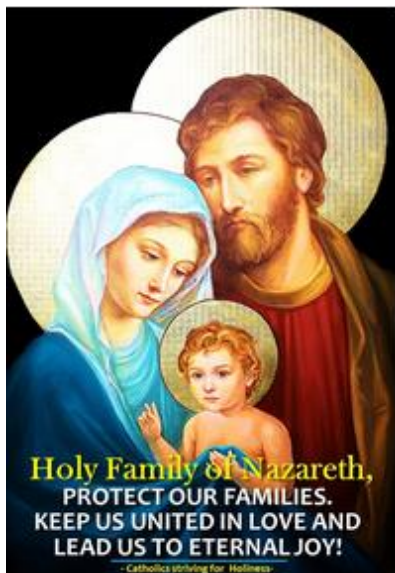
But what, you ask, does this have to do with St. Stephen, the Church’s first martyr, whose feast we celebrate today? How did he traditionally come to be venerated as the patron of horses?

According to a legend related in an ancient poem, Stephen was an able horseman, and when his steed fell ill, Christ Himself healed the ailing animal. Others say that medieval farmers generally gave their animals a time of rest during the 12 days of Christmas, so horses were blessed and celebrated on Stephen’s Day.



In Sweden, St. Stephen’s story became intertwined with that of a different Stephen (Staffan) who they say was martyred in that country in the 11th century. According to various legends, he was a stable boy, and an unbroken foal carried his body to its final resting place. So both Stephens are traditionally celebrated in that country on December 26th and are commemorated with equine activities!

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



From St. Mark’s Office:

In this season of transition, from one year to the next, may God watch over you and bless you. We wish all our parishioners and friends of the parish a fulfilling and prosperous new year. May your relationship with Jesus Christ grow stronger and may He grant you the strength to do His will in all aspects of your life!

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
Where is Jesus?



Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I’m sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, “Where is he?”

It’s an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God, and failing so miserably that we wonder if He’s purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn’t even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn’t Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it’s okay to lose our way.

He isn’t eluding us. In fact, He’s trying to make it easy. He’s staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened? Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – December 26, 2024©Lpi

“To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.”
~ St. John Henry Newman

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.”





Sunday Collection
December 22nd & 29th
numbers will be posted in the
January 5th Bulletin.

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, 2024. Donation letters for doing your taxes will be sent in January 2025.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”
(JOHN 3:1)

During this Stewardship season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship ourselves and our goods with others.



Pope Francis’ January 2025 Prayer Intention
For the Gift of Diversity in the Church.

Lt us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

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.

- + Priests traveling to rural parishes to help celebrate Christmas and return after the New Year.
- + Families and students returning to work or school to begin a new year after Christmas celebrations.
- + Those who are faced with health issues: Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, Kerri Cerney, John Fox, Ben Orr, John Fox, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Deborah Leibebe, Dorothy & Frank McGilvary, and all who are sick or with lonely.
- + The repose of our faithfully departed. May the Lord grant them eternal happiness and peace to their families.

Weekly Prayer of the Faithful:

That as grateful children of God, we remember to tell family and friends that we love them everyday and to pray even for those people who may annoy us.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

“Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”
(LUKE 2:49)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph serves as a model of love, faith, and obedience. Just as Jesus was guided by His Father’s will, so too can we be guided in our marriages by God’s love. Reflect on how your family life mirrors the faith and devotion of the Holy Family. Strengthen your commitment to each other by nurturing a deeper relationship with God.

“Arise, Be Enlightened, for thy Light is Come!”
Isaiah 60:1



December 2024/January 2025 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>

**Bulletin insert will return January 5th, 2025.



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

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: <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/report-abuse>.