



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 Sacred Heart Cathedral (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.

For the homebound, SHC [streams](#) their 8AM Mass on Sunday most mornings.

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

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

Anointing of the Sick. Please let us know when you or others are sick, going into the hospital, or in assisted living home so they may be included in our prayers and receive a visit upon request.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

1/13 (Mon): 6:30PM Bible Study at SHC Social Hall

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

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

1/17 (Fri): 7PM [Santo Nino Mass](#) followed by festive dinner.

1/18 (Sat): 3-4PM Confessions & Adoration at SHC

1/26: Catholic Schools Week

2/28-2/3: Diocesan Spring Engaged Encounter

PASTOR

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

DEACON

Rev. Mr. Warren Lucero

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

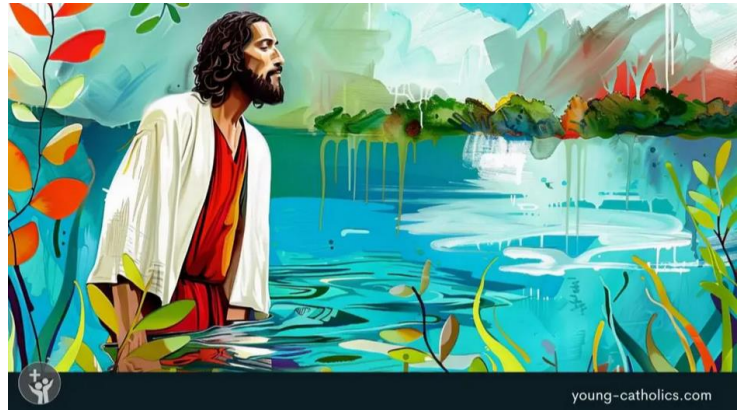
Catholic Definition: Baptism

The sacrament in which, by water and the word of God, a person is cleansed of all sin and reborn and sanctified in Christ to everlasting life. (Etym. Latin *baptisma*; from Greek *baptisma*, a dipping.) <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/>

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>.

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025



First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm *104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30*

A prayer praising God's greatness.

Second Reading: *Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7*

Jesus Christ saved us and renewed us with his Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:15-16, 21-22.*

Jesus is baptized by John.

Music of Mass for Epiphany of the Lord

41 On Jordan's Bank

63 Ready the Way

117 When Jesus Comes to be Baptized

Choir – I Wonder As I Wander

550 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

Heritage Mass parts #'s 890-897.

Join our Sunday Mass Ministry. Become an extraordinary minister, altar server, reader/lector, or choir as a singer or musician. If you have questions in regard to what this entails, please contact the parish office at (907) 374-9564, email to stmark@cbna.org, or see Mary Pat Boger after Mass, Fr. Ross Tozzi at a CSA meeting, or George Stefan for the music ministry. Training will be provided. Prayerfully consider getting involved.



31 Biblical Virtues to pray for your kids.

2. Growth in grace. "I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet er 3:18)

Sacred Heart Cathedral
LATIN RITE MASS at 6:00 PM
January 11th & 18th



MONDAY

SHC Club Discussion Group – Meets 1st Monday of the month (Feb 3) 12:30-2:30PM downstairs in the Community Room. **Surprised By Truth: 11 Converts give the Biblical and Historical Truth For Becoming Catholic** by Patrick Madrid (Part I) and maybe a Part II in March. Contact: 43janetf@gmail.com
Bible Study Monday Nite – January 13th 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!

WEDNESDAY

Marian Prayer Group: 6 PM at St. Raphael Church, after the 5:30 PM Healing Mass. The group reflects on one of the recent messages from Our Blessed Mother in Medugorje after the Rosary is said.

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 – Silent Ignatian Retreat for Women is coming February 14-17. 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.

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.



Justice Challenge: This is National Migration Week. The observance began over 25 years ago by the U.S. Catholic Bishops as a way for Catholics to appreciate the Church's diversity and become aware of all the ways the Church serves migrants and refugees. Your challenge this week is to pray the prayer which the USCCB wrote for this special time:

Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace,

To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister;

To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;

To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;

To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us;

To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

<https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel...

...to the Second Reading: The Second Reading spells out what baptismal living looks like: "reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly." This is the rebirth to which God calls us.



...to experience: Over time and experience we grow to maturity as human beings, appreciating more and more fully both our roots and our potential. So, too, with baptism. We grow over time into understanding its meaning and its power.

<https://liturgy.slu.edu>

Pleasing to God

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am pleased." (Luke 3:2)

Adults: Do you think that God was "well pleased" by your action in recent weeks? Why?

Kids: What good thing could you do this week that would be pleasing to God? <https://pastoral.center>



How can we stay strong in our faith?

Help integrate your faith by joining in the Sunday ministries at Mass – Liturgical Reader, Extra-ordinary Minister at Communion, helping the priest on the alter (server), or singing in the choir.

Ask how you can help with the ministry on campus? Talk with Mary Pat Boger about getting training or Fr. Ross Tozzi about offering to speak at the Catholic Student Association meetings. Contact Mary Pat Boger at stmark@cbna.org

The Catholic Company presents



Why did Our Lord choose to be baptized?

He obviously had no need of baptism. He wasn't a sinner. So why be baptized?

When Our Lord came to the River Jordan to receive baptism at the hands of His cousin St. John the Baptist, John asked the question that any of us would have asked:

“I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” --Matthew 3:14

Our Lord answered:

“Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to all righteousness.” -- Matthew 3:15



So John obeyed and baptized Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world, yet Who was guilty of no sin Himself.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his work *Jesus of Nazareth* has some profound insights into why Our Lord underwent baptism. One of the Holy Father's central points is the identification of Jesus with sinners and the anticipation of His sacrifice on the Cross.

Although the baptism John offered to the people of Israel was not the same as the true Baptism Our Lord would bring, it was a prefigurement of it. Like the Sacrament it anticipated, John's baptism involved a deep-seated conversion of heart, a confession of sins, and a rising out of the water to new life.

This, of course, is directly related to His Passion, death, and Resurrection. In fact, as Pope Benedict points out, He refers to His Passion as His “baptism.” In His death, He full shoulders our sins, cleansing them in His own Blood.

Our Lord rises from the waters of the Jordan as He would rise from the tomb three years later, glorified and victorious. At the Baptism, we see the heavens opened and the Trinity manifested: the Father proclaims the identity of His Son—“This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased”—a proclamation which, Pope Benedict says, foreshadows the Resurrection.

His rising from the dead was the most definitive proclamation of His divinity and His power over all things, even sin and death. Because of Christ's actions, the heavens are opened, and we—through our own Trinitarian Baptism and participation in Christ's death—can pass through.

Meditating on the life of Christ is an essential part of the spiritual life. One way to encourage meditation is to incorporate sacred art into your home!

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

Spring Diocesan Engaged Encounter Retreat is scheduled for **28 February-2 March 2025** at St. Nicholas Parish in North Pole. Couples preparing for a sacramental marriage can register online at <https://fairbanks.engagedencounter.com/>. The registration deadline is February 21st. For more information contact fairbanks@engagedencounter.com.



(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
Beneath the Surface



When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course, it seemed natural that he would be “the one.” The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – January 9 2025©Lpi



9 Days for Life (January 16-24th) is an annual novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

“Children are a treasure for humanity and also for the Church because they constantly remind us of the necessary condition for entering into the Kingdom of God: that we must not consider ourselves self-sufficient, but in need of help, of love, and of forgiveness. ~ Pope Francis



The Seven Sisters Apostolate - Everyday, one to three members of the **Apostolate** pray a holy hour for a specific clergy. This year, the Holy Hours are devoted to prayers for *Father Ross Tozzi*. If you love Intercessory prayer, consider joining The Seven Sisters Apostolate. Contact Jan Fortune at 43janet@gmail.com for more information on how to join.



January 5: \$ 1,546.00
Actual Collection YTD
7/1/24-6/30/25): \$ 40,468.81
Number of Parishioners: 130

Our December 3% of donations(\$185.95) went towards the Diocesan Special Collections. Thank you for your continued support! Visit [WeShare](#) for online giving.

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” - Luke 3:16

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.



POPE FRANCIS' JANUARY 2025 PRAYER INTENTION ***For a right to an education.***

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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.

- + For the consolation of all who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, homes, or property due to natural disasters.
- + For the protection of human life.
- + All who are faced with health issues, especially Kerri Cerney, Ben Orr, John Fox, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Dorothy & Frank McGilvary, Deborah Leibee, Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, Jeanne Cannon, Galvin Family (St. Raphael), and all who are sick.
- + 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

“You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:22)

God takes great pleasure in those who respond to His call. Do you hear His voice? He may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at rfath@cbna.org or talk to your priests.

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.

January 2025 Daily Readings may be found at
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings>



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.

“He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unflinching strength to bear it. Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.”

~ St. Francis de Sales