

St. Mark University Catholic Parish
The Catholic Community of University of Alaska, Fairbanks
*P.O. Box 750166 Fairbanks, Alaska 99775 *907-460-2137 * st.mark@cbna.org*

19 November 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

In September, I celebrated my first anniversary as your pastor. On behalf of all at St. Mark, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving Season and to thank you for the prayerful participation in our parish community and support over the past year. With the pandemic and the current spikes we are seeing across the country, Thanksgiving this year will be unlike any other we have experienced. However, in spite of the challenges that we face there are still so many things that we can be grateful for. I am grateful that, as a community, we have safely reopened, abided by new protocols, and have been able to celebrate Mass in person at Sacred Heart Cathedral and have virtual mass for those isolating at home. For those of you who are at home or feeling isolated over the holidays, I want you to know we are praying for you. If I can be of any support, please reach out.

There are a few exciting things happening around Thanksgiving this year. First, there is a diocese-wide request for participation to do a Marian Consecration using the *33 Days to Morning Glory* study program Nov. 29 to Dec 31st. The Consecration liturgy will take place on the vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Our seminarians encourage participation from all to show prayerful support for Piotr Oprych and Dominik Wojcik as they prepare for ordination to the transitional diaconate on January 1st, 2021 at 7:00pm at Sacred Heart of Cathedral. Their ordination as deacons brings them into the final stretch of their formation for priesthood!

Also, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (December 1st) has come to be known as “Giving Tuesday”. It is a day in the midst of Christmas preparation to remember to support non-profit and religious organizations that do so much good in our communities. It is a day for us as good stewards of our time, talent and treasure to financially support our parishes. This year we will be participating in #iGiveCatholic as a diocese and parish. We are hoping that each household can give \$25 or \$50 on Giving Tuesday in support of our parish reserve account that covers budget shortfalls in lean times. We try to be good stewards with your donations and operate within our means while meeting our mission statement, but it is important to be prepared for the unavoidable. Your support of our reserve account gives us the ability to assist those communities in our diocese less fortunate than us, especially in times difficulty. Please visit our parish website to make a donation.

For current information throughout the year, please refer to St. Mark’s webpage (<http://www.stmarksuaf.org>). Again, during this season of gratitude be assured of my continued prayers for all of you. May the God of infinite goodness continue to watch over you, bless you and keep you safe in his care.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Robert Fath, JCL