



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: : Advent

A period of preparation for Christmas, including four Sundays, the first nearest the feast of St. Andrew. It is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The use of the organ and other musical instruments is restricted in liturgical functions. Altars may not be decorated with flowers.

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

CALENDAR of EVENTS

12/1: 1st Sunday of Advent

12/3 (Tue): 6:00 PM **Advent Retreat Talks** with

Fr. Peter Bang & Fr. Charles Olweny at SHC

12/8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

12/7-8: SHC Hospitality Bake Sale after weekend Masses.

12/9 (Mon): Immaculate Conception

Masses at SHC – 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 7:00 PM.

For our homebound, Fr. Ross Tozzi homilies can be heard by going to <https://sacredheartak.org/> and click on "homilies."

Need a Priest? - Please contact St. Mark's Office – (907)-374-9564 or Sacred Heart Cathedral Office at (907) 474-9032.

Sacramental Prep or Records – Contact the parish office at 907-374-9564 or Fr. Ross Tozzi – rtozzi@cbna.org or call (907) 347-3005.

First Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

December 1, 2024



First Reading: *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The Lord will fulfill his promises to Israel and Judah.

Responsorial Psalm *25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14*

The Lord will teach us his paths.

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be holy and to please God.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory.

1st Sunday of Advent hymns of the Mass

47 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

56 Wake, O Wake, and Sleep No Longer

54 Savior of the Nations, Come

52 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

44 O Come, Divine Messiah

Heritage Mass parts are found on pages 890-897.



December 1, 2024, we move into Year C of the Liturgical calendar. We will read through Luke's gospel, hear the stories and proclamations of the prophets, and spend considerable time in the

epistles of Galatians, Colossians, I and II Timothy, and II Thessalonians.

Week 1 focuses on the second coming of Christ.

Week 2 brings us the story of the ministry and prophetic role of John the Baptist.

Week 3 is the message of John the Baptist, which, while a message of judgement, is always counterpoised by the call to rejoice.

And week 4 focuses on the role of Mary.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE



The following is a schedule at Sacred Heart Cathedral *unless noted otherwise*:

- ❖ **Dec 1 (Sun.) – 1st Sunday of Advent**
- ❖ **Dec 3 & 10 (Tue) – 6 PM Advent Retreat Talks** with Fr. Peter Bang & Fr. Charles Olweny. Reflect on the beauty of the season of Advent.
- ❖ **Dec 8 (Sun) – 2nd Sunday of Advent**
- ❖ **Dec 9 (Mon) – Immaculate Conception**
(*Holy Day of Obligation*) –
Masses are 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 7 PM
- ❖ **Dec. 12 (Thurs) – Our Lady of Guadalupe –**
5:30 PM Mass in Spanish
- ❖ **Dec 15 (Sun) – 3rd Sunday of Advent**
- ❖ **Dec. 16 (Mon) – Communal Penance Service**
6:30 – 8:00 PM for SHC/ICC
- ❖ **Dec. 17 (Tues) – One Simbang Gabi Mass at Immaculate Conception Church**
- ❖ **Dec 22 (Sun) – 4th Sunday of Advent**
- ❖ **Dec. 29 (Sun) – Feast of the Holy Family.**
Regularly scheduled Masses.

Communal Penance Service Schedule for Advent

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM w/local priests available at each gathering.

SHC/ICC: Monday, Dec 16th

St. Raphael: Thursday, Dec 19th

St. Nicholas: Friday, Dec. 20th

Christmas Mass Schedule for Sacred Heart Cathedral:

December 24th (Tue): 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM (*St. Mark Choir*)

Midnight Mass with music beginning at 11:30 PM

December 25th (Wed): 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM Mass in Spanish



MONDAY

Sacred Heart Book Club Discussion Group – 12/1 Christmas potluck & gift exchange -12:30 PM downstairs in SHC Community Room. January Book: *“The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise”* by Robert Cardinal Saray c.2017. For more information contact: 43janetf@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). **Meets this week: Dec 2nd.**

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.

Connecting to the Gospel...

... **to the First Reading:** Christ's presence and kingship are not found in the “clouds” (see [First and Second readings](#)) but in his suffering and death (see second reading and Gospel) for our sakes and in the tension within our own lives as we struggle to align ourselves with the truth of the kingdom of Christ our King.

... **to experience:** Normally kingship is associated with power, prestige, and wealth. Surprisingly, the Gospel presents Christ the King on trial and about to suffer and die. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>



Justice Challenge: This week marks the beginning of Advent. We are challenged by the Scriptures to be alert and vigilant, and to recognize that the Messiah the Jews prayed for would bring justice to our world. The first reading describes Jerusalem in the era of the Messiah as “The Lord Our Justice.” Your challenge this week is to reflect on how you have helped bring more justice into the world, and to pay attention (being very vigilant) to an injustice that exists in your local community. Then decide as a household one specific step you can take to end the injustice and uphold the human rights of all. <https://pastoral.center>

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* – Dec. 7th – at Monroe School. Formations talks – Games for kids in the gym. All who are interested are welcome to attend!

Young Adults: 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. This year, the Holy Hours are devoted to prayers for Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P. If you love Intercessory prayer, consider joining. For more information, contact Jan Fortune at 43janetf@gmail.com.

For events at St. Nicholas or St. Raphael go to their websites: <https://straphaelfairbanks.org/> and <https://stnicholasnp.org/>



What are 4 themes we can focus on during the 4 Sundays of Advent?

Need a good way to really tap into this season?

Advent always seems to pass by in the blink of an eye, and this year—with Christmas Day occurring on a Wednesday—this season is almost at its shortest. Amidst the urgency of buying a tree, stocking the pantry, and selecting gifts, how can we intentionally slow down and focus on our spiritual preparation?

A good way to stay focused is to pick a theme for each week, meditating on it during your daily prayer (and even during activities like shoveling the sidewalk or peeling apples). Here are four possible themes:

1. **Hope:** The first week marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. The tale of our salvation has circled back to its starting point: the expectation of the Messiah. This week intensifies our hope in the coming of a Savior Who will free us from the chains of sin and become our Way and our Light.
2. **Peace:** The Prince of Peace came among us at the only point in history when the whole world was at peace. Intentionally bringing stillness and peace into our souls through quiet prayer is the best groundwork for welcoming the Messiah into our homes at His Nativity.



3. **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?

4. **Love:** Once the fourth week is here, only a few days remain until the Messiah is with us. Remember that God became Man because of His love for us. You can respond to this love by preparing a hospitable, loving place for Him in your soul.

This Advent, take a moment to bring these themes into your prayer. <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed>.



How can we stay strong in our faith?

Read the Bible daily. Scripture offers first-hand access to the Word of God and tells the story of human salvation. You can pray the Scriptures (often times in a group setting in dorms or let by your campus chaplain) to become more attuned to the Word of God. Either way, the Bible is a must for helping you sustain and grow your faith.

<https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/checklist-growing-faith/>

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment) Remembering Advent



It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent.

What a funny juxtaposition — all of us stringing twinkle lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole.

Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent.

There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkle lights and the eggnog. But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas.

I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I overschedule, I overdecorate, I over gift. All this "over" leads to — you guessed it! — overwhelm. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My spiritual Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished — all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkle lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches The Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door and the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.

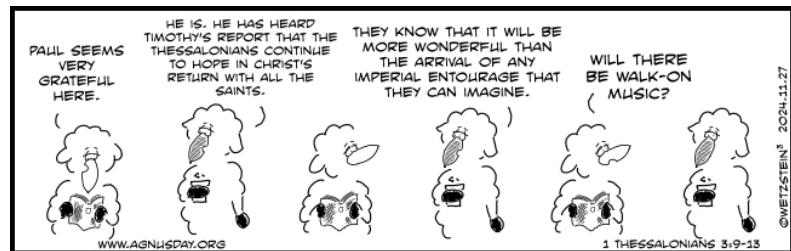
(Even though, yes, I know, the guests are coming any minute.)
Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – November 27, 2024@Lpi

The Habit of Prayer

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:36)

Adults: What have been the strengths of your prayer life? What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?

Kids: What prayers will you say each day and each week during advent. <https://pastoral.center>





Sunday Collection
 November 17: \$ 1,044.00
 Actual Collection YTD
 (7 /1/24-6/30/25) :
 \$ 31,953.41
 Number of Parishioners: 110

We appreciate your generosity and continued support! Visit WeShare for online giving: <https://www.stmarksuaaf.org>

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2024: Instead of our usual 3% we will have a second collection on **Dec. 1st** for **Diocese of Fairbanks Special Collections. Dec. 8th** the second collection will be for the **Retirement for the Religious.**



Pope Francis' November 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.
- + Those suffering from winter storms, villages on the west coast of Alaska and lower 48.
 - + Students returning for the last week of classes at UAF and facing final examinations for the semester
 - + Those who sick and in need of healing – physically, mentally, or spiritually.
 - + Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, Kerri Cerney, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Deborah Leabee, and all who are sick or with long term illnesses that need our prayers.
 - + Remember our deceased loved ones who have gone before us.

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 –

“Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:36). God calls us to be watchful and alert to His voice. Is He calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Be open and vigilant in prayer and talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Director at rfath@cbna.org or talk to your priest.

Weekly Prayer of the Faithful: That we help build God’s kingdom on earth, but also invest our gifts in God’s eternal kingdom.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” (LUKE 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

Where Faith and Disability Meet: Focus on Veterans
Tuesday, December 3
2-3 pm ET

Please join the National Catholic Partnership on Disability to hear the stories of three United States Catholic veterans. Learn about the intersection of their faith and their experience of disability in recognition of the 2024 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



This online event is free. Register at www.ncpd.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT
SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fairbanks Community Food Bank.

Food is collected and re-distributed to individuals and agencies. Sacred Heart Cathedral volunteers help with distributions of food boxes each Friday at SHC. Help with the loading and unloading of food boxes. If you can help between 12 and 1PM on any given Friday. Contact SHC at 907-474-9032.

Regional Soup Kitchen

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve meals from 1-3PM on the weekend (Sat & Sun). For more information on how you can help and what is needed to serve these meals, go to <https://iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen> for more information.

Begin the **JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE** with Bishop Steve on December 29th when he celebrates the 11:00 AM Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Catholic Church celebrates a yearlong “event of great spiritual, ecclesiastical, and social significance in the life of the Church.”



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://diocesoeffairbanks.org/report-abuse>

CHECK OUT OUR TABLE FOR ADVENT MATERIAL TO HELP PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS AND THEN COME ON DOWNSTAIRS TO HELP FILL STUDY BAGS FOR STUDENTS WHILE ENJOYING SOME COOKIES AFTER 5:30PM SUNDAY MASS!