



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.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

3/24-27: ACCB Priest Convocation – Anchorage

3/28: 5:00-8:30 PM FISH FRY at Monroe Catholic School. Stations of the Cross 5:30 PM.

4/1: 7:00 PM Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral

4/13: 5:30 PM Palm Sunday Mass

4/17: 7 PM Holy Thursday Mass

4/18: 7 PM Good Friday Services

4/19: 8 PM Easter Vigil

4/20: EASTER SUNDAY (No 5:30 PM Mass)

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: stmark@cbna.org
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: Laetare Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent, when the introductory word of the Introit is laetare, "Rejoice O Jerusalem." As it is Mid-Lent Sunday, rose vestments are worn, flowers are permitted on the altar, and the organ is played. On this day the Golden Rose is blessed. The day is referred to also as Mediana, Mid-Lent, Mi-Carême, Mothering, Rose, or Refreshment Sunday.

<https://www.catholicculture.org>

31 Biblical Virtues to pray for your kids.

12. Courage. "May my children always be strong and courageous in their character and in their actions." (Dt 31:6)

March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent, Year

Laetare Sunday



First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

The Israelites celebrate the Passover in the promised land.

Responsorial Psalm 34:2-7

A prayer of praise to God.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Paul preaches our reconciliation with Christ.

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

MUSIC OF THE MASS – March 30

Chant Mass Parts #840-846

724 Rejoice, the Lord is King

450 The King of Love

369 Shepherd of Souls

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus(Choir)

523 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Chrism Mass

Join Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P and the Priests of the Fairbanks Diocese on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Reception in Social Hall afterwards.



Holy Weeek Schedule



Sacred Heart Cathedral

4/13: (Sun) 5:30PM - St. Mark Palm Sunday Mass

4/15-16: (Tue & Wed) 5-8:00 PM Confessions, Anointing of the Sick, and Adoration

4/14 & 15: (Mon & Tue) 5-8:00 PM a representative from the Office of the Tribunal will be available to assist individuals with questions of annulment and divorced persons seeking remarriage in the church. Contact Tribunal Office at 907-374-9504 or rfath@cbna.org if you have any questions.



Summer Oratory is Mon-Fri, June 9th-13th – 9AM-3PM at Saint Nicholas Parish in North Pole for ages 6-17. **Register by May 1st**, at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/summer-oratory>

MONDAY

SHC Club Discussion Group – 1st Monday of the month 12:30-2:30PM downstairs in the Community Room.

Contact: 43janetf@gmail.com

Bible Study Monday Nite – April 7th 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: 6:00-8:30PM downstairs at SHC every Tuesday. 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 Medjugorje after the Rosary is said.

THURSDAY

Confirmation/Youth Group – Confirmation – 5:30 PM; Voces Teen 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 10-11:30 AM. **Volunteers needed** to help distribute to clients in the parking lot 11 AM -1 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.

Nocturnal Adoration 7AM–7PM Every Friday 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 gym. All who are interested are welcome.

Young Adult Game Night: 7 PM at SHC meets on the 4th Saturday (4/26) for the next two months. Contact Diocesan OFFF Director Michael Olsta at 907-374-9526 or olsta@cbna.org.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

IVE Third Order Meetings – Meeting 3/29 at St. Nicholas; 4/12 at ICC.

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

Marriage Preparations – Contact Fr. Ross at rtozzi@cbna.org or call (907) 347-3005 six (6) months prior to wedding.

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 how you can join, contact Jan Fortune at 43janetf@gmail.com.

Mass, Stations of the Cross & Simple Supper held at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Fridays during Lent. Combine nourishment for both the body and the soul - **5:30 PM Mass, 6:30 PM Stations, 6:30 PM Simple Supper, 7:00 PM Stations in Spanish.**



Justice Challenge: Sometime we become so enamored with the Parable of the Prodigal Son that we forget the interaction that prompted its telling. Jesus told the iconic parable in response to being criticized by the Pharisees and scribes for welcoming and eating with sinners. Who is welcome in your home? With whom are you willing to dine? The challenge this week is to spend some leisure time with someone who has made some serious mistakes and may even have a bad reputation. Can you offer the compassionate presence of Christ to this person and discern the goodness that lies beneath the surface of this person's life? <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel...

... **to the First Reading:** Paul reinforces what the gospel parable points to: sureness in the Father's prodigiousness—"new things have come." As the younger son is reconciled with his father, we are all reconciled to God "through Christ."



... **to experience:** Good parents spare nothing for the sake of their children. Sometimes they are prodigious even beyond their means. How much more so is our loving Father prodigious with us! <https://liturgy.slu.edu>

A Generous Spirit

Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." (Luke 15:31-32)

Adults: When have you been generous enough to forgive someone who hurt you deeply?

Kids: Is there someone you need to forgive or ask forgiveness of?

<https://pastoral.center>



FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
PROTECTING CROPS FROM NATURAL
DISASTERS IN BANGLADESH

Shahadat's village, and much of Bangladesh, is located on flat lowlands. The intense rainy season causes flooding that often destroys farms and crops. Find out how Shahadat learned new farming skills from a Catholic Relief Services program that enabled him to increase the yield of his vegetable crops despite the challenges of climate change. Visit <https://crsricebowl.org/week-4> to read this week's Story of Hope.

" Love God, serve God; everything is in that."
– St. Clare of Assisi



So, what is almsgiving really?

The saints show us the way.

Let's be honest—when we hear the word almsgiving, we might think, “Okay, donate something and check the Lent box.” But there's more to it than that.

For Catholics today, especially during Lent, almsgiving isn't just about tossing a few extra bucks into the collection basket or Venmo-ing a charity. It's about asking: What do I have that someone else truly needs? And am I willing to part with it—not just conveniently, but sacrificially?

Almsgiving is one of the three pillars of Lent—alongside prayer and fasting—but it's often the least understood. In today's world, where giving often feels transactional or tied to tax receipts, the Church invites us to rediscover almsgiving as a spiritual discipline, not just a charitable act.



St. John Chrysostom once said, “Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life.” In other words,

almsgiving is not optional. It's justice. The goods we have—time, money, and talents are entrusted to us for the sake of others. For modern Catholics, this might look like consistent, quiet generosity: giving to someone without expecting recognition; offering material support to a family in need; even donating time to someone who cannot repay it.

St. Basil the Great warned, “The bread you store belongs to the hungry; the cloak you keep hidden belongs to the naked.” That's not poetic exaggeration—it's a sober reminder that almsgiving is about detachment from wealth and attachment to Christ in the poor.

And it's not about how much we give, but how we give. As St. Teresa of Calcutta put it, “It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.” During Lent, we are called to a deeper simplicity—a willingness to be interrupted, to give even when it costs us. Practically, that could mean creating space in your weekly budget for intentional giving. It might mean refusing to ignore the homeless person you pass on every day. Or checking in on someone you know is struggling—not with advice, but with presence.

The saints remind us: almsgiving is not merely for the benefit of others. It is for your own salvation.

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



I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.

He wouldn't have, of course. Mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: “Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”

In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me.

The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion — not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited “I'm sorry, I was wrong.” No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay.

So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the “I'm sorry.” He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons.

But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he wouldn't have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. *Why are you doing this?* some people would ask. *God doesn't need this.*

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.

God doesn't need our repentance. *We need our repentance.*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – March 27, 2025©Lpi.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: : What is the Generic name for the hymn sung at the end of Mass? (Answer on back page)



March 23, 2025: \$ 926.00
 Actual Collection YTD
 (7/24- 6/25): \$ 53,180.05
 Number of Parishioners: 132

Thank you for your continued support! Consider online giving with [WeShare](#) on our website. St. Mark will give 3% of our March collections to the National Collections for Catholic Relief Services, which supports international immigration and justice.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.”
 - JOSHUA 5:12

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God’s blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.



POPE FRANCIS' MARCH 2025 PRAYER INTENTION
For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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.

... Deacons who work for our dioceses in areas that their talents and time are needed.

...Jitlada Duangpakpheng preparing to enter into the Catholic Church; Piper Peters preparing for 1st Communion.

...members and friends of St. Mark parish.

...respect for life from conception to natural death.

...Reagan Smith, Mary Beth Perreault, Ben Orr, Kerri Cerney, Ron Johnson, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Dorothy & Frank McGilvary, Deborah Leibe, Fr Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, the Galvin family,

...the repose of the soul of Isabelle Harrington (McGrath St. Michael volunteer bookkeeper) and loved ones.

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 at (907) 474-9032. Masses on Sunday are offered for members of the St. Mark Community.

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. stmarks@cbna.org

ARE YOU REGISTERED AT ST. MARK'S UNIVERSITY PARISH?

Registration allows Fr. Ross and his staff to get to know you better, to welcome you, and to minister to you. It is also an opportunity to enjoy a sense of belonging and identity. If you want to receive our emails and notices fill out the FLOCKNOTE card in the church entrance or email Mary Pat Boger at stmark@cbna.org.



Keep current with what is going on in our diocese by going to the Diocese of Fairbanks [website](#). You can reach area websites from one location, publications, needs around the diocese, ministries available, training, and contact information.



For more information on the Year of Hope scan the QR code or go to the Diocesan website at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/the-year-of-hope>

The Diocese of Fairbanks is now hiring a Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

This is a full-time, exempt position with benefits. To apply, submit a cover letter, résumé, and three references to humanresources@cbna.org. For a detailed list of job duties and other information, please visit <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings>.



"Lord Jesus, during Lent, I seek spiritual renewal and a deeper connection with you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, cleanse my heart, and draw me closer to your love and grace. Amen."

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Three keys to a good Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. To help with almsgiving, our parish is doing a food drive to feed the hungry, a basic corporal work of mercy. We will collect cans and non-perishable packaged foods in the blue bins in the vestibule. We call this “Food for Families/Cans for Christ” because Jesus said, “As you did for the least of your brethren, you did for Me. Lent is a great time to give to the Food bank because the large amounts of food that were donated around Thanksgiving dwindled. Our goal is 1,000 pounds of food. The Knights of Columbus will weigh the donations each week and bring it to the Food Bank. Let’s all make a special effort to fill the bins!



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>

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN
Answer: Recessional hymn. @Lpi