



# ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH

The Catholic Community of University of Alaska Fairbanks

1316 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709-5168

Email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto: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.*

**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

**2/1: St. John Bosco Carnival 1-2:45PM**

Carnival Games & Fun for Ages 6-17

**2/2: World Day for Consecrated Life**

**2/3: St. Blais Day – Blessing of Throats at all Masses**

**2/7-8: 7PM-7AM ICC First Friday Nocturnal Adoration**

**2/8: 9-10:30 Beloved Marriage Encounter at SHC**

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

## PASTOR

Fr. Ross Tozzi: [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto: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: Candlemas

Synonymous with the feast of the Purification of Mary, February 2, commemorating the purification of the Blessed Virgin, according to Mosaic law, forty days after Christ's birth and the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple. Candles are blessed on that day and a lighted candle procession held to commemorate Christ as the light of revelation to the Gentiles and represents his entry into the temple. In Scotland it is the legal term day on which interests and rents are payable.

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

**February 2, 2025**

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Year C



**First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

The Lord you seek will come to the temple.

**Responsorial Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10**

The Lord is the king of glory.

**Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18**

Jesus became like us in order to save us.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40**

Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah.



### MUSIC OF THE MASS

Heritage Mass parts #'s 890-897.

**720** The King of Glory

**518** Christ, Be Our Light

**207** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

**520** We Are the Light of the World

**523** I Want to Walk As Child Of The Light

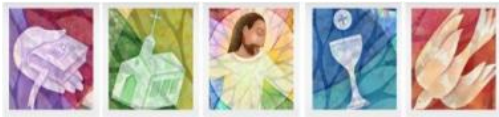
**Candlemas**, another name for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, falls on Sunday this year. St. Mark's will have candles available that will be blessed and available for households to take home to encourage a calmness of the heart and open us up to experience the light of God.



Celebrating Candlemas

### 31 Biblical Virtues to pray for your kids.

**5. Self-Control:** "Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do" (1 Thess. 5:6)



## MONDAY

**SHC Club Discussion Group** – Meets Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month) 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) Contact: [43janetf@gmail.com](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com)  
**Bible Study Monday Nite** – Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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; Youth Group 6:30–8:00 PM. Questions—Contact M. Way of Salvation at [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at St. Raphael Church. For information contact Gloria Slagle [stclare4@gmail.com](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Contact Diocesan Office of Faith and Family Formation (OFFF) Director Michael Olsta at 907-374-9526 or [olsta@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto:iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org)

## EVENTS & GROUPS OF INTEREST

**Spiritual Exercises** – Silent Ignatian Retreat for Women is coming Feb. 14-17. Contact [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org)

**Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat** for engaged couples - Feb. 28 to Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. For more info go to: [Fairbanks.engagedencounter.com](http://Fairbanks.engagedencounter.com).

**Marriage Preparations** – Contact Fr. Ross six (6) months prior to wedding - [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com).

**St. Blais Day** - Blessing of the throats will take place at Masses held on Monday.



**Justice Challenge**: Next week we honor St. Paul Miki, whose feast falls on February 6. St. Paul Miki was crucified for his faith in Jesus, but he, like Jesus, forgave his murderers as he hung on the cross. Your challenge this week is two-fold. First read a brief but very inspiring biographical sketch of St. Paul at <https://bit.ly/paul-miki>. Then spend some quiet time reflecting on a person or persons in the world who cause suffering or even death to others. Lift that person or those persons up in your prayers. Remember, Jesus told us to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors!  
<https://pastoral.center>

## Connecting the Gospel...

**...to the First Reading**: The Gospel shows one way that Jesus was like us: he fulfilled the law by being taken to the temple to be offered to God. The second reading shows us other ways that Jesus was like us: he “share[d] in blood and flesh,” he “was tested,” and “he suffered.”



**...to experience**: The stronger our desire for what we await, the greater our impatience tends to be when its arrival is delayed. If we feel impatient for the coming of salvation in Christ, however, perhaps we are not seeing what is already before our eyes. <https://liturgy.slu.edu>

## Light for All the World

[A] light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. (Luke 2:32)

**Adults**: What does it mean to be a light that shows others, whether Christian or not, God's love?

**Kids**: How can you be a light that shows God's love to others?  
<https://pastoral.center>



**How can we stay strong in our faith?**  
**Find a good Catholic Community or at least a few good Catholic friends to encourage you.** There is a reason Jesus

gathered His 12 Apostles together and when He sent them in pairs. So they would not be alone. In this modern world that lives so contrary to the Gospel, it is all the more reason for us not to be alone. Reach out and find good Catholic friends that will encourage you, as well as Catholic activities parishes or the diocese has to offer.  
<https://www.amadorcatholic.com/10-ways-to-grow-your-faith>

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. Consecrate your family to the [Holy Family](#)



## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What country do the majority of Coptic Catholics live in?





## Why should I get my throat blessed?

*Have you ever had your throat blessed at Mass on the Feast of St. Blaise? Here's why!*

In some parishes, priests will use two candles in the form of a cross to bless the congregation's throats after Mass, usually around St. Blaise's feast day, celebrated on February 3rd.

St. Blaise of Sebaste was a physician and the bishop of Sebastea, in modern-day Armenia, around the 3rd century A.D. Not much is known about his life, but we do know that many people came to him seeking healing for body and soul. The Acts of St. Blaise is a series of legends about his life. According to the medical writings of Aetius Amidenus, Blaise would treat people who had objects stuck in their throats.

In 316, the governor of Cappadocia (modern-day central Turkey) was ordered by the Roman Emperor Licinius to persecute St. Blaise. Blaise was hunted down, imprisoned, and eventually beheaded.

St. Blaise became associated with blessings of the throat after a miracle he performed shortly before his death. According to his Acts, as St. Blaise was being taken into custody, a child nearby was choking on a fishbone. His mother threw herself at the saint's feet and begged him for his intercession. Blaise prayed for the child, who was then cured. As a result, St. Blaise often intercedes for protection against illnesses and injuries of the throat. (Some accounts state that Blaise had been given two candles and formed the candles in a cross around the boy's throat.)

The tradition of blessing throats dates back to the 8th century and is derived from the Book of Blessings, a liturgical book that contains instructions for Catholic ritual blessings. Within the *Book of Blessings* is the *Order of the Blessing of Throats on the Feast of Saint Blaise*, which states that, to bless someone's throat, the priest must join two candles with a red ribbon and make the sign of the cross while saying the following blessing:

*"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

The intercession of St. Blaise through the Blessing of the Throats can protect us from diseases and anything that distracts us from God and His healing power. Customs like this one, so deeply rooted in our history as a Church, show us the beauty of our faith and how close we are to the miraculous.

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

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

## The Thoughts of Many Hearts



When Simeon cradles the infant Messiah in his arms, he speaks of salvation and glory and revelation. He speaks of his own death. He speaks of the fulfillment of God's promise to all people.

But most memorable, in my opinion, are his words about the hearts of men. This Child, he says, will be the way "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Perhaps you're like me. Perhaps you don't enjoy scrutinizing yourself, your actions, your intentions. You don't like reflecting on why you feel or react the way you do, and you really don't enjoy measuring those feelings and reactions against what you know they could be.

It's exhausting to sit with God, your heart in your hands, both of us looking at it, talking about it. So far too often, I opt out.

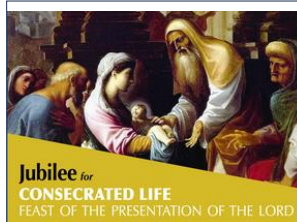
The oldest trick of the devil, you see, is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do. There are so many other things I could be doing, after all. Answering emails. Catching up on laundry. Scrolling Facebook. Worrying about inflation and the election. Stressing about my kid's dance recital and next week's busy schedule.

But where is God truly at work? Where is the place God will point to, when my life on Earth has come to its close?

It is the very depths of my heart. The place where I am my most authentic self, for better or worse. The place where all my pretensions crumble away, and I am alone with the truth of who I am and what I choose to do.

Am I brave enough to look into the depths of my own heart?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – January 30, 2025 ©Lpi



**World Day for Consecrated Life** will be celebrated in the Church on Sunday, February 2, 2025, and in parishes over the weekend of February 1-2, 2025. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the

consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.



January 26: \$ 1,254.00  
Actual Collection YTD  
(7/24- 6/25): \$ 43,603.59  
Number of Parishioners: 104

Thank you for your continued support! Visit [WeShare](#) for online giving.

**Year End Giving Statements** have been mailed out. If you haven't received yours or have questions, please contact [mbogger@cbna.org](mailto:mbogger@cbna.org).

#### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

*"Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested."*  
~ Hebrews 2:18

When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us, He understands. Plus, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole you feel in your heart.



#### POPE FRANCIS' FEBRUARY 2025 PRAYER INTENTION *For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

**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.

**Pray for the family of John Fox.** He passed away this past week. His funeral will be held at a later date when the family can all gather.

**Pray for our sick and suffering** - Ron (Carol) Johnson, Kerri Cerney, Ben Orr, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Dorothy & Frank McGilvary, Deborah Leabee, Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, and the Galvin Family.

**Pray for our departed loved ones**, especially John Fox. May they be welcomed into the eternal joy of God's presence.

#### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*"When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord."* (Luke 2:22)  
Are you being called to share Christ's message of hope through a life of service in the Church? Explore your vocation with openness. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org).

Answer to Catholic Trivia Question: Egypt

#### Beloved Marriage Preparation Classes

Winter Classes at Sacred Heart on Saturday Mornings 9:00 to 10:30 AM - Feb 8, 15, 22 - March 8, 15, 22 2025. The 6 sessions speak to the very heart of every man and woman, bringing sacramental truth and God-infused love into the everyday challenges of married life. Please register by email with Fr Ross [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto:rtozzi@cbna.org)



LATIN RITE MASS – February 8<sup>th</sup>  
6 PM at Sacred Heart

Training is available for those interested in becoming an extraordinary minister at Mass and a lector. Please see Mary Pat Boger after Mass or email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org) for more details. We will work around your schedules. We need more parish members to call upon so that we are covered when others are sick or unavailable on any given Sunday. Talk with Mary Pat Boger or email [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org) for more details. The same goes for the choir or altar servers. See George Stefan or Eddie Yew regarding joining the choir.



#### GET FREE CATHOLIC CONTENT ON FORMED.ORG

Our parish has access to a great online resource, FORMED. Check out what they have to offer this week at <https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed>

- (1) Log onto: <https://formed.org/>
- (2) Find our Parish by Typing in Fairbanks and selecting **Sacred Heart Cathedral Mark**
- (3) Click Next, then fill in your name and email address.
- (4) Start accessing content!

**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.

**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](mailto:vac@cbna.org). For more information access the Diocese Safe Environment: <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/report-abuse>.

"Father of mercy and God of all consolation, graciously look upon me and impart to me the blessing which flows from this holy Sacrament. Overshadow me with Your loving kindness and let this divine Mystery bear fruit in me." – St. Blaise