



# 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

**2/21-23:** Jubilee of Deacons

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

**3/5:** ASH WEDNESDAY

**3/7-8:** 6PM-6AM ICC First Friday Nocturnal Adoration

**3/9:** 4PM Rites of Election & Continuing Conversion

**3/10-14:** UAF & FNSBSD Spring Break

**3/17:** Monroe Foundation St. Patrick's Day Dinner

## 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: Encounter

An existentialist term, appropriated in religious language, to describe the human being's meeting with Christ in the sacraments. The sacramental encounter is an effective communication of grace from Christ as God, through Christ as man, to the believing recipient.

<https://www.catholicculture.org>

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

**7. Justice.** "God help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do." (Ps 19:10)

**February 23, 2025**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C



**First Reading:** *1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23*

David does not kill Saul.

**Responsorial Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13**

A song in praise of God's mercy.

**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 15:45-49*

As we bear the image of Adam, so we will bear the image of the one from heaven.

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 6:27-38*

Jesus teaches his disciples to be merciful as God is merciful.

### MUSIC OF THE MASS

*Heritage Mass parts #'s 890-897.*

**537** All Creatures of Our God and King

**510** Prayer of St. Francis

**425** Christians, Let Us Love One Another

**433** Love One Another

**434** Loe Divine, All Loves Excelling



**LENT begins soon**, on Wednesday, March 5, with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Three Masses will be celebrated to begin our 40-day Lenten season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving

### ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, & 7:00 PM

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowls will be available so you can collect your spare change over the course of Lent. Visit [www.CRSricebowl.org](http://www.CRSricebowl.org) for more information. Schedules for Stations of the Cross and Holy Week at SHC will be posted when available.



## MONDAY

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

Contact: [43janetf@gmail.com](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com)

**Bible Study Monday Nite** – Feb. 24<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; Voces Teen 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 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 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.

**Young Adults**: 7:00 pm Game Night at SHC meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Contact Diocesan 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 [seridoras@cbna.org](mailto:seridoras@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).



**Justice Challenge:** Luke's Gospel for Sunday presents some of the biggest challenges Jesus has ever given us. We are asked to love our enemies, stop judging people, turn the other cheek, and give to those in need. These are life-changing actions, each one demanding hearts of love and mercy. Your challenge this week is to choose someone or some group which you have looked on as the "enemy" in the past because they have hurt you or someone you love. Perhaps you are holding onto a grudge against the person(s). Instead, offer forgiveness! Let go of the past and find a way to help the person be who God created him or her to be.

<https://pastoral.center>

## Connecting the Gospel...

**...to the First Reading:** It was perfectly permissible and encoded in the Law to exact an "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Saul's attempts on David's life justify Abishai's desire to kill Saul whom, after all, "the Lord delivered" into David's hands. David's sparing Saul's life was a gesture of mercy which superseded the Law. The Gospel challenges us to the same measure of mercy.



**...to experience:** In a society where the standard for many is "dog eat dog" and getting ahead at any cost, the golden rule "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is a high standard, indeed. What a challenge the Gospel poses! <https://liturgy.slu.edu>

## In Another's Shoes

Jesus said, "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

(Lk. 6:27–28)

**Adults:** What has allowed you to overcome obstacles and forgive someone who has hurt you?

**Kids:** When has it been hard to forgive someone who hurt you? What did you do? <https://pastoral.center>

**How can we stay strong in our faith? Read a good book.** We need to fill our minds with the goodness of God and the witness of the saints. Pick up one to read 10 minutes a day during Lent, it can do wonders! <https://www.amadorcatholic.com/10-ways-to-grow-your-faith>

## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: In Italy, where can you find the painting of the crucifixion that, according to tradition, spoke to St. Thomas Aquinas?

"Looking for a way to LIVE your Total Consecration?" The Legion of Mary was founded for just that – a simple way to commit "To Jesus through Mary." For more information on how 3 hours a week will satisfy your desire for service call Shannon Christensen at 907-388-1825 or Kathleen Frisby at 907-385-7114."







## Who was the very first martyr?

*Stephen, a fearless and eloquent deacon, was the very first martyr of the Catholic Church.*

Nothing is known of Stephen's life before his introduction in Sacred Scripture, but his appearance, though brief, is powerful.

Stephen was one of the first deacons ordained in the history of the Church. He seems to have outshone the other seven, because Acts says he was "full of grace and power" and "did many great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).



The Holy Spirit filled him with such eloquence that people who were hostile to the Faith couldn't overcome him in a theological argument. This made some of the Jews so angry that they charged him with blasphemy and brought false witnesses to accuse him.

Stephen's lengthy defense is recorded in the Book of Acts, in which he reminds the high priest and other Jews how they have persecuted every prophet and finally killed the long-awaited Christ. Upon finishing his defense, he received a vision of Our Lord enthroned in heaven and cried out to those around him about what he was seeing.

Upon hearing this, some of the Jews rushed at him, dragged him outside the city, and stoned him.

As he was dying, Stephen prayed for his killers to be forgiven. Then, says Acts, he "fell asleep," a beautiful way of describing someone who dies in the peace of Christ.

Fear was unknown to Stephen the Martyr. Nothing stopped him from speaking the Truth and praising Jesus Christ. We need Stephen's courage more than ever as we witness to Christ in this world.

<https://catholiccompany.com/getfed/who-was-the-real-st-valentine/>

## Judgment and Love



"Oh, well. I'm going to hell anyway, right?"

I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It's always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of churchd ones, too) regarding what constitutes "judging." It is absolutely not "judging" someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it.

But it is judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today's Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the "culture wars." I certainly don't disagree that it can often feel like you're fighting a war when you're trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point?

We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – February 20, 2025©Lpi

### Answer to Catholic Trivia Question:

The Church of San Domenico in Naples @Lpi

"Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you; all things are passing; God never changes." ~ St. Teresa of Avila



February 16: \$ 1905.00  
Actual Collection YTD  
(7/24- 6/25): \$ 47,578.05  
Number of Parishioners: 131

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

#### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

***"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them,  
and lend without expecting anything back"***  
– LUKE 6:35

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Praying for our enemies doesn't change them, it changes us. Mercy and compassion will keep us on the path to holiness.



#### 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.

**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 [Jubilee of Artists](#).

**Pray** for health and healing – Mary Beth Perreault (Dcn Paul), Ron (Carol) Johnson, Kerri (Jim & Mary-parents) Cerney, Ben Orr, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, Dorothy & Frank McGilvary, Deborah Leabee, Fr. Sean Thomson, Cedric Grace, and the Galvin Family.

**Pray** for those who have died.

"Turning the other cheek is not the withdrawal of the loser, but the action of one who has a greater inner strength, who defeats evil with good, who opens up a breach in the heart of the enemy, unmasking the absurdity of his hatred. It is dictated not by calculation, but by love." ~ Pope Francis

**FLOCKNOTE:** Keep in touch with us for free! Text 'SMDOF' to 84576 or connect with us online at '[SACREDHEARTAK.FLOCKNOTE.COM/STMARKPARISH](#)'. Or fill out one of the cards on the table at the entrance of church (SHC) and drop in the collection basket or leave it on the table. *Thank You!*

#### Beloved Marriage Preparation Classes

Winter Classes at Sacred Heart on Saturday Mornings 9:00 to 10:30 AM -Feb 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)



**Spring Diocesan Engaged Encounter** is scheduled for the weekend of February 28 – March 2, 2025, at St. Nicholas Parish in North Pole. Couples preparing for a sacramental marriage can register online at <https://Fairbanks.engagedencounter.com>. The deadline for registration is February 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact [fairbanks@engagedencounter.com](mailto:fairbanks@engagedencounter.com) for more information. Please sign up early!

LATIN RITE MASS – March 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6 PM at Sacred Heart

#### 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. Masses on Sunday are offered for all members of the St. Mark Community.

**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>.

*Be merciful,  
just as your Father  
is merciful.*

*Luke 6:36*



young-catholics.com