



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.

PASTOR

Fr. Ross Tozzi: rtozzi@cbna.org Ph: 907-347-3005

DEACON

Rev. Mr. Warren Lucero

PARISH OFFICE: ph: 907-374-9544

Office Hours: 10:00 AM– 12noon

Parish Admin: Mary Pat Boger – stmark@cbna.org

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

St. Mark Mass & Confession Schedules

Sunday Mass: 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral

Confessions: Saturday at 3pm at SHC or before 5:30pm Mass

If you are homebound and wish to receive Holy Communion, contact our Parish Office @ stmark@cbna.org.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

6/27: Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus

6/29: Peter's Pence Collection

7/4: **Fourth of July Young Adult Float & Feast**

7/4: St. Mark, SHC & Chancery Offices Closed (Friday)

7/6-8: Catholic Youth Conference in Anchorage

Catholic Definitions: Novena

The annual contribution from the faithful of various countries to defray the expenses of the Holy See. It seems to have started in England, where each owner of land of a certain value gave a penny. It was re-established by Pope Pius IX after having lapsed since the Reformation. In some countries the contributions are gathered by various associations; in others it is an annual collection sent by the bishops to the pope.

www.catholicculture.org

32 Biblical Virtues to pray for your kids.

25. Hope. "May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and helpfulness by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Ro. 15:13).

Wishing you a **joyful** and **safe** 4th of July!

June 29, 2025

Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Cycle C



The symbols that represent Saints Peter and Paul are *the sword* and *the key*. The keys remind us of Peter's authority to lead the Church, and the sword shows Paul's bold preaching and martyrdom. Their feast day celebrates their courage, faith, and dedication to spreading the Gospel.

First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11*

Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.

Responsorial: *Psalms 34:2-9*

The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.

Second Reading: *2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18*

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 16:13-19*

You are Peter; and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.

Please continue to keep **FATHER ALPHONSUS AFINA**, his family, and the other captors in your prayers, morning, afternoon, and evening. In Bishop Steve's words: "...we, through our prayers are very powerful!" May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our Mother Mary soften the hearts of their captors and bring them home safely!

PETER'S PENCE



Peter's Pence Collection
(for the Holy Father)

A second collection for "Peter's Pence" will be held this Sunday (June 29th) at our St. Mark Mass. The Peter's Pence collection is a gesture of solidarity through which every member of the faithful can participate in the activity of the Pope as Pastor of the universal Church.

The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father through the Peter's Pence Collection are destined to Church needs, to humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. For more information, see: <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html>



Youth Group, Catechism, & Oratory return in Fall. For more info contact servidoras@cbna.org.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: Returns in the Fall. For more info on book titles, contact Jan Fortune at: 43janetf@gmail.com

Bible Study Monday Nite – On break until Fall.

TUESDAY

Voices of Hope Prayer Group: 6:00-8:30PM downstairs in SHC Community Room every Tuesday. All are welcome!

FRIDAY

To request Food Boxes - people may call in orders at (907) 374-0572 from 10:00 –11:30 AM and pick up their food boxes from 12:15 – 1:00 PM.

SATURDAY

Confessions & Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament – 3:00 – 4:00 PM at SHC.

Young Adult Summer Programs – 4th of July Float & Feast! contact Michael Olsta for more information.

<https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/young-adult-summer-outings>

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptism Classes: The three-part Baptism class is for parents of infants and children under the age of 7. For more info, email Fr. Peter Bang at pbang@cbna.org.

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

Why do we celebrate Saints Peter and Paul on the same day? They are two of the most well-known saints and are often spoke of as the two men most responsible for spreading the Christian message in the early days of the Church. Legend has it that they were both executed on the same day on the command of Emperor Nero and buried in Rome. (Historical accounts cite Peter being martyred in 64 AD and Paul in 67 AD.) Because of Saint Paul’s Roman citizenship, he was beheaded. St. Peter was reportedly crucified upside down because he said he was not worthy to be sacrificed in the same manner as Christ. There is evidence that both were celebrated on this day as early as 258 AD.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Saints Peter and Paul:

“Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so, we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles’ blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith.”

<https://bustedhalo.com>



Justice Challenge: Summer is a great time to eat out with your family. How do you choose the restaurant? Have you tried that new ethnic restaurant which will introduce your family to new flavors and textures of food? When you decide on a restaurant, do you check to see if the restaurant uses locally produced food instead of buying it from thousands of miles away? Your challenge this week is to check out the restaurants in your town and then support those which provide healthy, farm-to-table options which also care for God’s creation. Discover how amazing your community is and what a gift God has given you! <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the Second Reading: The focus of this solemnity is not limited to our eating and drinking the eucharistic elements, but leads to our living the total self-giving of Christ: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.”



... to experience: Total self-giving seems beyond human capability. Only little by little do we grow in our capacity to give ourselves as Jesus did. The Eucharist nourishes and encourages us as we are more and more in our daily lives, choose self-giving.

Saints Peter and Paul

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. (Mark 16:18a)

Adults: If you are asked, how would you explain Jesus to a person who had not heard of him?

Kids: Who do you tell people Jesus is?

<https://pastoral.center>

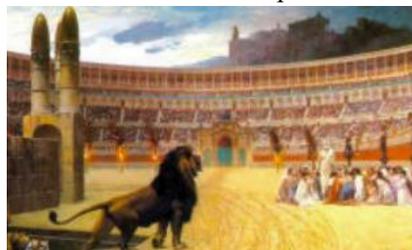
CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: In which year did the Church permit Catholics to attend Saturday evening Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation?

(Answer found on last page.)

First Martyrs of the See of Rome – Feast Day: June 30 The holy men and women are also called the “Protomartyrs of Rome.” They were accused of burning Rome by Nero , who burned Rome to cover his own crimes. Some martyrs were burned as living torches at evening banquets, some crucified, others were fed to wild animals. These martyrs died before Sts. Peter and Paul, and are called “disciples of the Apostles. . . whom the Holy Roman church sent to their Lord before the Apostles’ death.”

www.catholicculture.org



“They are the ones who truly live, they who merit to be slain for Christ.”

~ St. Peter Chrysologus



What is “the great cloud of witnesses”?

St. Paul’s analogy helps explain the saints beautiful role in our lives.

St. Paul wrote many memorable things in the New Testament, but one thing in particular has defined how Catholics think about saints. In Hebrews 12:1, St Paul writes:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

To truly understand what St. Paul means by “a cloud of witnesses,” we must consider the full context of this verse. In the preceding chapter, St. Paul goes into what you might call the “Faith Hall of Fame,” recounting the remarkable faith and deeds of Old Testament figures like



Abraham, Moses, and Rahab.

It is this all-star lineup of Old Testament players that St. Paul is referring to in this famous verse.

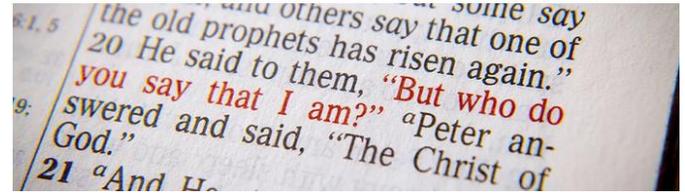
By calling these figures witnesses, St. Paul recognizes that these men and women are still actively participating and concerned with our earthly lives. They are more than passive observers; they are our spiritual supporters, interceding for us and encouraging us by their example.

Imagine running a marathon with a crowd cheering you on. Their encouragement fuels your determination and gives you the strength to keep going. They might hand you a water bottle or a high-energy snack right when you need it! Similarly, the saints cheer us on from their place in heaven. They have completed their earthly race and now, from their celestial vantage point, they inspire us to persevere in our own struggles. They pray for us and send us “snacks” of grace when we need a boost!

Although the men and women who compose the “cloud of witnesses” are saints now, they started off as sinners just like you and me! In *Pray for Us: 75 Saints Who Sinned, Suffered, and Struggled on Their Way to Holiness*, you’ll be encouraged and inspired by the stories of sorrowful, broken, idiosyncratic people who turned their lives around and dedicated themselves to God and His work. You’ll discover that anyone—even you!—can become a saint if you trust in the Lord.

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

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



At first, the Apostles try to dodge the question.

When Jesus confronts them — and make no mistake, it is a confrontation — with the question “Who do you say that I am?” they act like a man whose wife has just asked him if she looks fat in these jeans.

The evasiveness of their answer puts politicians to shame: “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Some say.

But Jesus doesn’t let them off easy. He repeats himself. He wants an answer. “Who do you say that I am?”

They all know the answer. They all believe the answer. And they all know the answer could get them thrown in prison or killed. Only Peter is brave enough to say it: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

People have a lot of opinions about God. They always have. They have a lot of opinions about Jesus and the Bible, about the Catholic Church and the Pope. Some of these opinions are well-founded, well-researched. Some of them are based in ignorance. Many are born of painful misunderstandings. But they are all just that: opinions.

Some say.

We know who Jesus is. We know who the Eucharist is. We know what the truth is. Amid the chaos and the violence and the excruciating *loudness* of this fallen world and all the words it shouts into the void about God and Jesus and right and wrong, *we know*.

But will we answer?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – June 26, 2025©Lpi.

“You will never be happy if your happiness depends on getting solely what you want. Change the focus, get a new center, will what God wills, and your joy no man shall take from you.” ~ Bl. Fulton sheen

IT IS NOT THE SOUL ALONE THAT SHOULD BE HEALTHY;
IF THE MIND IS HEALTHY IN A HEALTHY BODY,
ALL WILL BE HEALTHY AND MUCH BETTER PREPARED TO GIVE GOD GREATER SERVICE.
— ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



Stewardship Report
 June 22: \$ 1,088.00
 Actual Collection YTD
 (7/24- 6/25): \$ 68,603.60)
 Parishioner Count: 108

Thank you for your continued support!
 June's 3% will go to the Peter's Pence Collection providing the Holy Father with the financial means to respond with emergency assistance as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease.

Stewardship Moment

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." (2 TIMOTHY 4:7)

How many of us can say this? St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God doesn't call us to be successful, he calls us to be faithful." How many times have we been blinded by the success of the world at the expense of our faith? Matthew Kelly says, "Take one minute each day to remind yourself that you are just passing through this life and will die one day; you will live more intentionally with a passion and purpose."



JULY 2025 PRAYER INTENTION

For formation in discernment.

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

- Pray for...** Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Steven Maekawa, OP. Fr. Ross Tozzi, priests, and religious in our diocese.
 ...Fr. Alphonsus Afina's safety in captivity, that our prayers may give him strength and help in his release; and all who are being persecuted for their faith.
 ...all who are suffering from fires and natural disasters.
 ...the safety of all who defend our freedom.
 ...respect for life from conception to natural death.
 ...all who are sick, hospitalized, or facing medical treatment.
 ...all in our parish who lost loved ones. May our prayers bring them comfort in their sadness.
 ...eternal rest for all our faithfully departed relatives and friends.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 29, 2025

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

Sometimes God speaks to us very clearly, other times it is a little more difficult to understand what God is asking of us. Maybe you feel like Peter, God is calling you to something greater than yourself, but we don't fully understand what He is asking of us. Now would be a great time to talk to your priest to better learn how to hear God's voice and discern His purpose for your life. Reach out to the Vocation Office and talk with Fr. Robert Fath at 907-374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.



Quote (From the Declaration of Independence:
"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..."

Celebrate our nation's independence and thank God for the freedom given us so that we may freely choose him and do what is true, good, and beautiful!

**SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL/
 CHANCERY PARKING LOT PROJECT**

Drive carefully and follow the signs when using the parking lot. It is being done in different stages, so be aware of changes that occur. Check the Bulletin Board in the vestibule of SHC or their [website](http://www.cbna.org) .

A Call to Serve... We **NEED** parishioners to join us in the following ministries: altar servers, extraordinary eucharistic ministers, and/or lectors (readers). Training will be provided! If you are interested or want more information, contact Mary Pat Boger at the Parish Office at 907-374-9544 or email: mboger@cbna.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Diocese of Fairbanks Job Opening - **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. This is a full-time, exempt position with benefits for the Diocese of Fairbanks. To apply, submit a cover letter, résumé, and three references to humanresources@cbna.org. If you know anyone that may be interested, please direct them for description of position to <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings> or have them email. humanresources@cbna.org.

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 emailing vac@cbna.org. For more information access the Diocese Safe Environment site at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/report-abu>

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN
Answer: 1970