



# 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.

### PASTOR

Fr. Ross Tozzi: [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Sunday Mass Schedule

**Sunday Mass:** 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral

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

**Eucharistic Adoration at SHC:** Thursday 8 AM – 12 Noon

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

**7/25-8/2:** Tanana Valley State Fair (TVSF)

**7/31:** Young Adult TVSF Outing [*Canned Food Nite*]

**8/4-20:** Beloved Marriage Prep Series held on **Monday and Wednesday** evenings at ICC.

**8/15: Feast of the Assumption**

**8/19:** FNSBSD First Day of School

**8/20:** Fairbanks Catholic Schools First Day of School (8/20-22 – *Early Dismissal, 12:50 PM*)

**8/21-24:** UAF Orientation for New Students

**8/25:** First Day of Instructions.

*Look for the first week of September for the return of many of the regular youth and young adult activities.*

**10/17-19:** Engaged Encounter weekend at St. Nicholas in North Pole.

### Catholic Definitions: INNOCENCE

Freedom from sin or moral guilt. Applied to Adam and Eve before the Fall, to those who have just been baptized, and to persons who never lost the state of grace because they never committed a grave sin. (Etym. Latin innocens: in-, not + nocere, to harm, hurt.)

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

RISE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AGED, SHOW RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY  
AND FEAR YOUR GOD. I AM THE LORD.  
- LEVITICUS 19:32

July 27, 2025

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:9-13

young-catholics.com

### First Reading: *Genesis 18:20-32*

Abraham pleads with God to save the innocent people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

### Responsorial: *Psalms 138:1-3, 6-8*

Lord, on the day I cried for help, you answered me.

### Second Reading: *Colossians 2:12-14*

You were buried with Christ in Baptism and also raised with him.

### Gospel Reading: *Luke 11:1-13*

Jesus teaches the disciples about prayer.



### Music of the Mass – July 27

**434** – Love Divine All Love Excelling

**412** – Lord of All Hopefulness

**574** – Seek Ye First

**422** – What Wondrous Love

**721** – All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Fr. Alphonsus Afina was rescued with other captives and is being cared for. Please read Bishop Steven's letter and continue to prayer for their safety and recovery.

### SHC/Chancery Parking Lot Update

Monday (7/28) the contractor will begin work on the Peger entry. + *Everyone accessing the campus must use the Kobuk entrance until they finish.* Daily Mass attendees and visitors will need to be very cautious and allow trucks to enter and exit as needed via the Kobuk entrance as well.  
+ The Contractors hope to have it finished by Friday, so it has a day to rest before Sunday Mass traffic.

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

**29. Prayerfulness.** “Grant, Lord, that my children’s lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Eph 6:18).



**Religious Education** resumes in Fall. Registration begins in August. For more info: [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org).

#### MONDAY

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

#### TUESDAY

**Voices of Hope Prayer Group:** Every Tuesday from 6 – 8 PM in the Community Room at SHC.

#### THURSDAY

**Adoration:** 8 AM – 12 Noon at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

#### 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 – July 19<sup>th</sup> Angel Rocks Hike.** Contact Michael Olsta for more information.

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

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spiritual Exercises Silent Ignatian Retreat** – Men’s – Oct 2-5, 2025; Women’s – Oct 9-12, 2025 Held at Chena Camp. Cost \$200. Sign up at: <https://www.iccfairbanks.org/se>

#### SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Please contact our office or let Fr. Ross Tozzi know, if you are interested in receiving Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, or Marriage so we can make sure you are signed up for the right instruction and have the necessary paperwork filled out.

**Baptism:** Three-part Baptism class for parents of infants and children under the age of 7 offered at SHC. Contact email Fr. Peter Bang at [pbang@cbna.org](mailto:pbang@cbna.org).

**First Communion & Confirmation:** SHC classes are offered during the school year. For more info contact [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org).

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

**Have you signed up to Flocknote?** Simply text: “**SMDOF**” to 84576 or connect with us online through our website at [www.stmarksuaaf.org](http://www.stmarksuaaf.org) Registration allows Fr. Ross Tozzi 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.



#### A Call for Altar Servers!

If you had your First Communion and want to be close to Jesus by serving at Mass. Please contact: St. Mark University Parish Office at 907-373-9544 or email: [mboger@cbna.org](mailto:mboger@cbna.org) ; or talk with our priest. Training classes are provided for those serving at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Elizabeth Crail.



**Justice Challenge:** Community gardens are in full swing this time of the year. Do you know if you have one in your area? These gardens are usually a piece of land that is given to people or rented very inexpensively so they can grow food to feed their family. It is a good and holy thing to work with the earth, to plant seeds, and to tend them while they grow into plants. Jesus used stories of farmers in Scripture – he spoke of seeds scattered, seeds that take root. He spoke of a small mustard seed that grows into a mighty plant. Your challenge this week is to seek out a garden in your community. Volunteer to help weed or water and support those who are caring for God’s creation or feeding those most in need. <https://pastoral.center>

#### Connecting the Gospel ...

... **to the First Reading:** Abraham directly, confidently, persistently, and courageously petitions God to spare the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the Gospel Jesus teaches us to pray with the same directness, confidence, persistence, and courage.



... **to experience:** Nothing breeds confidence like success. This is also true when we turn to God in prayer. Although not always in the way we expect, God always answers our prayer. [www.liturgy.slu.edu](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu)

#### Daily Prayer

**Jesus said, “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Lk. 11:9)**

**Adults:** Have your most recent prayers been prayers of praise, petition, or sorrow? Which kind of prayer do you need to practice more often?

**Kids:** What are you most thankful for right now? <https://pastoral.center>

#### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** Where did Mary and Joseph take young Jesus to hid him from King Herod?  
(Answer found on last page.)

*“How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!...”*

*Grandparents remain a source of enrichment for the family, for the Church, and for all of society.”*

*~ St. John Paul II*



## What do a lion, ox, eagle, and angel have in common? They're all symbols of the Gospel writers!

*The four Evangelists are often portrayed alongside a particular creature. What are these creatures, and what do they symbolize?*

When you see the four Evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—depicted in art, one quick way to know who is who is to look at their symbols, which are frequently depicted with them.

You'll see a man (usually portrayed as an angel), a lion, an ox, or an eagle. Sometimes artists utilize the symbols as stand-ins for the actual saints, so you'd need to know your symbology to figure out who is represented.



Let's start by matching the right symbol with the right Evangelist:

**Matthew: Man/Angel**

**Mark: Lion**

**Luke: Ox**

**John: Eagle**

The great Church Father St. Jerome, who lived in the 4th and 5th centuries, gave us the pairings as we now know them. St. Gregory the Great corroborated his interpretation.

The symbols themselves come from the book of Ezekiel, who had a vision of God in the midst of these four creatures. The Church Fathers interpreted this as a foreshadowing of the four Gospels.

We meet the four creatures again in the 4th chapter of St. John's Apocalypse:

"...the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle..."

Matthew's symbol is a man because he begins his Gospel with Christ's human genealogy, focusing on Christ the Man.

Mark is represented by a lion because his Gospel starts off with a roar. Right away in the first chapter, we are confronted with the fiery words of St. John the Baptist, the "voice of one crying in the wilderness."

Luke is accompanied by an ox, an animal of sacrifice. This is because the first event he recounts is the apparition of the Angel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father of St. John the Baptist. Zechariah, a priest, is offering sacrifice to God in the temple when St. Gabriel appears to announce the impending birth of St. John. *(Continued in next column...)*

*(...continued from column on left.)*

An eagle is the companion of St. John, because in his Gospel, St. John "soars" above earthly events to contemplate the Divinity of Christ. His narrative begins with these sublime words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

The Church and her saint have always had a deep friendship with God's creatures! <https://getfed.catholiccompany.com>

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)  
**ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE**



It's easy to look at today's Gospel reading and come away with a view of God as disinterested and irritated, reluctant to give us what we need unless we bang down his door, hound him to the furthest reaches of heaven, wrench him from his reverie and force him to answer just so we'll finally go away.

Well, that's not what Jesus means by the parable of the friend at midnight — but it's also not surprising that we would think that it is. The whole point of this Gospel is that communication between God and man has been broken. It's not as easy as it once was, as it should be, as it could be.

In this parable, there exists many barriers between the supplicant and his friend. The time of day is not ideal. The door is locked. Their dispositions are opposite — one is in the middle of a REM cycle and the other is deeply agitated. They appear to be two people who are not primed to communicate well. Everything is working against them.

The same could well be said of God and the human race. Here we are in a fallen world, surrounded by sin and pain and sickness and death to the extent that it infiltrates not just our bodies but our souls, our minds, our attitudes.

We are the friend caught unprepared in the dead of night. We don't always know how to talk to God (*That door is thick! Will he hear us if we knock?*). We don't always know if we should (*It's all my fault that I ran out of loaves, after all*). We don't even know if we want to (*It's nighttime! He might be angry!*).

Everything is working against us.

It doesn't matter, Jesus tells us. Whatever is interrupting communication between your heart and the One who crafted it, the One who desires its full and irrevocable attention, it can be overcome. There is no door thick enough, no night dark enough, no sleep strong enough.

So knock.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – July 24, 2025©Lpi.

### Weekly Prayer of the Faithful

That we as Christian Stewards may learn to see the difference between the things we need and the things we want.



## Stewardship Report

July 20: \$ 941.00  
Actual Collection YTD  
7/25- 6/26: \$ 12,585.66  
Parishioner Count: 89

*Thank you for your continued support!*

For all who have contributed to the Chancery/Sacred Heart Cathedral pavement project – Thank You! All using the parking area can see the results coming to fruition!

### Grateful Stewards

***“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” LUKE 11:9***

Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. The truth is that many of us need very little. However, we usually want so much more! Stewardship is simply being grateful for all that we are and all that we have been given and generously sharing all of our God-given gifts with others. Gratitude and generosity are gifts that opens doors to new relationships with others and with God.

### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 27 2025

***“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”***

**(Luke 11:9)**

If you feel God is calling you to a vocation, ask for His guidance in prayer. *Lord I will go where You want me to go. I will be who You want me to be. I will do what You want me to do. Just make it my will, and make it clear to me.* Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org).



### 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, and all priests, religious, deacons, and volunteers working in our diocese.

...Fr. Alphonsus Afina's and companions recovery from their hostage ordeal.

...Grandparents and Elders for their contribution to traditions and values of family.

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

...safety of all as they enjoy their summer traditions and gatherings.

...all who are sick, homebound, or hospitalized; especially those dealing with addictions or mental health issues.

...all who have died, especially Candido Lucero, father of Dcn Warren Lucero.; may they dwell secure with the Lord forever.

### Job Opening with the Diocese of Fairbanks

**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](mailto: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](mailto:humanresources@cbna.org).

### Job Opportunity at Eielson AFB Chapel

Eielson AFB Chapel is look for someone to join their team as **Catholic Program Coordinator at Eielson AFB Chapel** (907-377-2130). Help make a difference working part-time with the Priest, with programing and administration. Contact today at Trinitee Bee, LLC at (937) 234-7269 for details or email: [triniteebec.llc@outlook.com](mailto:triniteebec.llc@outlook.com).



### The Seven Sisters Apostolate

What is it that we do? Well, everyday one to three members of the Apostolate pray a holy hour for a specific clergy member. Each Seven Sisters member chooses a day to offer their Holy Hour and then continues on that day for the whole year.

This year, our Holy Hours are devoted to prayers of support and for the intentions of Father Ross Tozzi. If you love Intercessory Prayer, please consider joining the Apostolate. It is a very rewarding ministry as it is both beneficial to Father Ross' intentions and is also edifying to your prayer life. For more information, Contact Jan Fortune at [43janetf@gmail.com](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com).

**Soup Kitchen** has been serving the needy from Immaculate Conception Church for over 30 years. They serve from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. With this extended heat and increase in meals served in the summer (500-650) they can use all our help. Contact [iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org](mailto:iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org) or 907-452-3533 for more information.

TO A GREAT EXTENT THE WORLD IS WHAT WE MAKE IT.  
WE GET BACK WHAT WE GIVE.  
IF WE SOW HATE, WE REAP HATE;  
IF WE SCATTER LOVE AND GENTLENESS, WE HARVEST LOVE AND HAPPINESS.  
OTHER PEOPLE ARE LIKE A MIRROR WHICH REFLECTS BACK ON US THE KIND OF IMAGE WE CAST.  
THE KIND PERSON BEARS WITH THE INFIRMITIES OF OTHERS,  
NEVER MAGNIFIES TRIFLES, AND AVOIDS A SPIRIT OF FAULT FIND.  
-BISHOP FULTON SHEEN  
THE WISDOM OF FULTON SHEEN

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

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: Egypt. Lpi