



# 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)

[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

**8/4-20:** Beloved Marriage Prep Series held at ICC – M & W

**8/6:** The Transfiguration of the Lord

**8/5-7:** Clergy Days

**8/14:** Legion of Mary Summer Celebration 7pm @ ICC

**8/15:** Feast of the Assumption – *Holiday of Obligation*

Masses at SHC will be at 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM & 7 PM

**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: APOSTOLATE

The work of an apostle, not only of the first followers of Christ but of all the faithful who carry on the original mission entrusted by the Savior to the twelve to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). The apostolate belongs essentially to the order of grace. Its purpose is not temporal welfare, however noble, but to bring people to the knowledge and love of Christ and, through obedience to his teaching, help them attain life everlasting.

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

August 3, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C



**First Reading:** *Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23*

Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!

**Responsorial:** *Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9*

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** *Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11*

There is neither Greek nor Jew, but Christ is all in all.

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 12:13-21*

A person's life does not consist of possessions.



**Music of the Mass – August 3**

**312** – Table of Plenty

**345** – Gift of Finest Wheat

**331** – One Love Released

**343** – O Sacrament Most Holy

**369** – Shepherd of Souls

**DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS CLERGY DAYS** is a

time for all the priests in our widespread area to come together for meetings, spiritual reflection, and a short break to share ideas and visit with their fellow clergy. As they gather this week. **Only one daily mass will be held at 12:10 PM August 5-7 (Tue-Thu) at Sacred Heart Cathedral.** Please keep them in your prayers and take the opportunity to join them at one of these masses.

*"It is necessary to pray for priests because they are so often forgotten by the living, since Christians often consider that priests do not need prayers."*

~ St. Joseph Moscati



**Religious Education** be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sundays from 9:30-10:30am beginning in September. Oratory will be held Saturday mornings. 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** – Please check the website for upcoming opportunities to join 18–35-year-olds for fun outings.

<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.*

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

**30. Gratitude.** “Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”  
(Eph 5:20, Col 2:7).

**Weekly Prayer of the Faithful**

That we may remember that they many possessions we strive to acquire are worthless in the eyes of the Lord.



**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:** Family reunions happen a lot during the summer months. You may have seen signs or notices in parks where families have reserved space to come together to catch up on news, share family stories and food, and to celebrate their heritage. When we take time to nurture relationships and to support and celebrate our families, it is a blessing. Our families are the first places we learn about faith and what it means to be a part of God’s family. There are some things we know about being a part of God’s family: we must feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to those who thirst and visit those in prison. And our families help us do this good work. Your challenge this week is to discuss how your family has been a witness to you of being Christ in the world. Then choose a corporal work of mercy and practice it this week. <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)

**Seeking Balance**

**And Jesus said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. (Luke 12:15)**

**Adults:** When have you felt that possessions were becoming too important in your life?

**Kids:** Have you ever received a gift you wanted a lot and then found it didn’t make you as happy as you thought it would? <https://pastoral.center>

“ONE NEED NOT SAY MUCH TO PRAY WELL,  
WE KNOW THAT JESUS IS THERE IN THE TABERNACLE.  
LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS TO HIM, LET US REJOICE IN HIS SACRED PRESENCE.  
THAT IS THE BEST PRAYER.”  
- ST. JOHN VIANNAY (1786-1859)

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** What word did Jesus call God the Father when he was praying?  
(Answer found on last page.)



## How do you offer a Mass for someone?

At Mass, we typically hear, *“This Mass is being offered for the intentions of [someone].”* What does this mean, and how do we offer a Mass for a friend or family member?

The Mass is the most powerful of all prayers, so it is a very effective way to pray for loved ones. Praying for loved ones through the Mass is an ancient tradition. While you can personally offer your prayers at Mass for a special intention, requesting that a priest say a Mass for your intention can be even more powerful because the priest himself has offered the Mass for that intention.

Requesting a Mass for your special intention is easier than you might think. It’s often as simple as calling your local parish and putting in a request. There are also many religious orders and shrines with online Mass intention request forms which you can submit. It is customary to give a very small monetary gift when you request a Mass for a special intention. This money helps support the priest, parish facilities, or missions. In previous eras, for example, candles were expensive, and the monetary offering helped a poor priest buy those candles for saying your Mass.



You can offer a Mass for family members, friends, or any special intention, but Masses offered for the dead are particularly powerful. In fact, many souls have actually appeared to loved ones to ask for Masses to be said for them so that they will be released from Purgatory. Since the souls in Purgatory are no longer able to pray for themselves, they rely on the prayers and good works of those still on earth to help them enter heaven sooner. Jesus loves them so much that He will often release a soul sooner when such prayers as the Mass are offered.

With the Mass, we are invited to participate in the glories of Heaven. Although having a Mass offered for your intentions is powerful, the gift of the Mass alone is powerful and transformative. Yet, so often we find ourselves distracted and unprepared. Meditations Before Mass is a beloved treasury of prayerful wisdom to help prepare for the profound reality of the Sacrifice of the Mass. Practical, straightforward, and full of wisdom, these talks will help you to quiet your soul, concentrate your mind, and grow receptive to God’s grace during Mass.

<https://getfed.catholiccompany.com>

“There is no ‘ON DUTY’ FOR a PRIEST.” --FULTON J. SHEEN

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)  
**THE BARN**



It’s 9:08 on a Saturday morning, and I am too darn busy for confession.

I’ve probably written before about how hard I find it to get to confession — I say ‘probably’ because I really can’t remember. I whine about it so frequently that it’s hard to tell if I’ve made it the subject of a written piece or if it is simply an oft-recited refrain from the Litany of Colleen’s Perpetual Complaints.

During the week, it’s tough to get to confession because I have little kids who are attached to me like Velcro, and I don’t need them listening in on (and eventually repeating to everyone) my sins. On the weekend it’s a little easier, but our parish doesn’t offer it before or after Sunday Mass, just on Saturdays. Saturday is when I get most of my work done, so getting absolution usually comes at the expense of productivity.

And that, friends, right here, is my barn. Productivity. That’s the proverbial storehouse of my earthly harvest. For the rich man in the parable, it’s a literal barn, filled to bursting with sellable crops. For you it might be money or your job title or what your life looks like to other people on social media. For me, it’s Getting Things Done. That’s my barn, the repository that holds the whole of my worldly preoccupations.

And it’s so full I want to tear it down and build a new one. A bigger one. One that can hold more worry, more time for work, more focus on output and crossing things off a to-do list. Vanity of vanities, indeed.

If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn’t take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

I have to burn the barn, friends. I don’t want to, but I have to. I’m closing my laptop and going to church.

So knock. Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – July 31, 2025©Lpi.

AUG 6: FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION:

“THEN a CLOUD came CASTING a SHADOW OVER THEM; FROM THE CLOUD came a voice, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON. LISTEN TO HIM.” - MARK 9:7



### Stewardship Report

July 27: \$ 813.00  
Actual Collection YTD  
7/25- 6/26: \$ 13,383.66  
Parishioner Count: 96

*We thank you for your continued support and generosity! Our parish relies on the support of parishioners and friends to help in our mission of supporting students on campus!*

#### God Centered Stewards

***"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."***  
**LUKE 12:15**

The Gospel message is contrary to modern culture that continually tries to convince us that our joy comes from the material things we possess. That the more we acquire, the happier we will be. Jesus shows us that our true joy comes from our "invisible" gifts like love, mercy, and forgiveness. True joy comes from "emptying" ourselves, giving of ourselves rather than always taking. We are called not to hoard but to share. True joy comes from living Stewardship in a grateful and generous lifestyle; become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

#### AUGUST 2025 PRAYER INTENTION



#### For mutual coexistence.

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

**Pray for...**Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Steven Maekawa, OP. Fr. Ross Tozzi, and all priests, religious, deacons, and volunteers working in our diocese.

...all participating in our Diocesan 'Clergy Days' for a successful gathering and spiritual growth.

...all participating in the Alaska International Senior Games this week.

...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.

#### Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

***"Take care to guard against all greed."*** (Luke 12:15)

In a world filled with distractions, God invites us to prioritize what truly matters—our relationship with Him. Is He inviting you to set aside worldly concerns and serve Him as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto:rfath@cbna.org).

The **Legion of Mary** invites all Active & Auxilliary members to a **Summer Celebration** on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 7:00pm at Immaculate Conception Church, Murphy Hall. Come early for Adoration and stay for cookies and ice cream! To Jesus through Mary! RSVP to 907-385-7114 or 901-388-1825.



#### 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.

**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: Abba. Lpi