



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

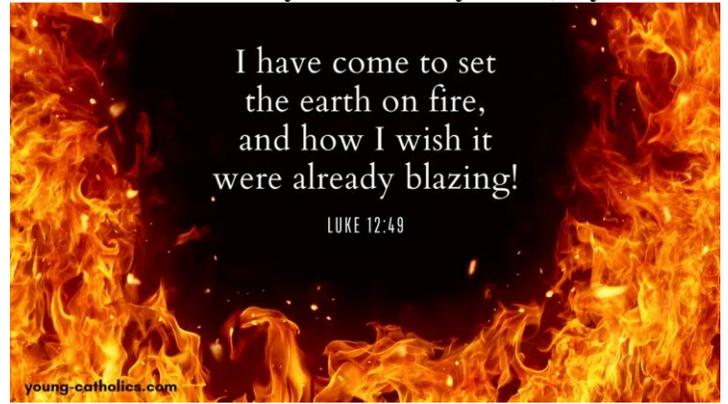
[Club@alasks.edu](mailto:UAF-catholic-Club@alasks.edu)

Finance Council: Marilis Bennett, Jen Tucker, &

Fr. Ross Tozzi

August 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C



I have come to set
the earth on fire,
and how I wish it
were already blazing!

LUKE 12:49

young-catholics.com

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

8/18&20: Beloved Marriage Classes at ICC – 7-8:30 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

8/24: Young Adult Berry Picking Outing – 2 PM

8/25: UAF First Day of Instructions.

8/28: UAF Party in the Park 12-3 PM welcoming students!

9/7: Religious Education begins at SHC

9/7: Canonization of Carlo Acutis & Peter Giorgio Frassati

10/2-5: Men's Spiritual Exercises [ICC Silent Ignatius Retreat]

10/11: HIPOW Auction & Dinner

Catholic Definition: Profession of Faith

The public acceptance of the teachings of the Church. When nonprofession would amount to a denial, the baptized Catholic must profess his faith. Under certain circumstances bishops and priests are required to make an official profession of faith according to canon law.

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

Thoughts on Aging - In so many ways, Jesus brings us "abundant life" as we age, but certainly by His living Word in the Sacred Scriptures, by His Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and by the people He sends into our lives, living icons of His goodness to us.

First Reading: *Wisdom 18:6-9*

The Hebrew people awaited the salvation of the just.

Responsorial: *Psalms 33:1,12,18-22*

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19*

We will look for the city designed and built by God.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 12:32-48*

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.



Music of the Mass Aug 17

549 – All the Ends of the Earth

562 – For You Are My God

625 – The Cry of the Poor

612 – Isaiah 49

212 – Praise to the Lord

Heritage Mass Responses 872-879

Please Support **Senate Bill 1298** and **House Bill 2672**

Religious Workers by writing letters to our Representative and Senators in Washington, D.C. Our Diocese depends heavily on missionary priests. Please read Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P. letter on the St. Mark website <https://www.stmarksuaf.org/> Your letters of support can help pass these important Bills! *Make this a priority in your schedule to get the message to those who vote on the decision!*

We could use YOUR help! We are in need of Liturgical Ministers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Cup, Choir members, and Altar Servers. If you'd like to volunteer email stmark@cbna.org or call 907-374-9544. *Training is provided.*



Religious Education will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC) Sundays from 9:30-10:30am beginning in Sept 28th. *Families of St. Mark are encouraged to register with SHC* at <https://sacredheartak.org/re-registration> this month. For more info on classes contact servidoras@cbna.org. Oratory will be held Saturday mornings.

Faith Formation doesn't end after leaving home. The Diocese of Fairbanks has partnered with the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute to further your knowledge on various Catholic topics. Check out <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/faith-formation>

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: Returns in the Fall. For more info on book titles, contact Jan Fortune at: 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 – The next event will be a berry picking weekend -Aug 24th. Please check the website for more details 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

Contact our office or let Fr. Ross Tozzi know if you are interested in Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, or Marriage. Proper paperwork, instructions, and planning are necessary in planning.

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.

First Communion & Confirmation: SHC classes are offered during the school year. For more info contact servidoras@cbna.org.

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



Justice Challenge: This week we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. It is a moving and amazing event. Mary is taken into heaven, body and soul. She offers hope of the Resurrection and life after death to all believers. Hope is very important in our lives. It helps us through times that are tough, it helps us grow and change and to accept challenges, changes, and the unknown. Your challenge this week is to take some time to pray about how you can offer hope to someone who really needs it. It may be a family member, a friend, someone with a serious illness or depression, or even a stranger, but find a way! <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... **to the First Reading:** Jeremiah's preaching divided the city and incited such opposition that people sought his death. Standing in this prophetic tradition, Jesus, too, preaches a word which divides families and leads ultimately to his death.

... **to experience:** None of us seeks or desires division and strife, especially among those whom we cherish most. Sometimes, however, the choice is so clear and the values are so important, that we accept division and strife as a consequence of our choice
www.liturgy.slu.edu



An Unsettling Truth

Jesus said, "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!" (Luke 12:51)

Adults: When has your taking a strong stand on a moral issue created division rather than healing in the short term?

Kids: Is it important to do the right thing even if others are angry as a result? Why or why not?

<https://pastoral.center>

"The Responsorial Psalm should be sung from the ambo or another suitable place."

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) 61.

- It emphasizes its role as a scriptural proclamation.
- We honor the Psalm's connection to the First Reading, as it reflects on and responds to God's Word.
- We visually and spiritually reinforce that this is not a performance, but a sacred proclamation of God's voice in the Psalms.

Weekly Prayer of the Faithful

That we have the courage to step out of our comfort zone and stand up for life, marriage, and religious liberty.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: In what form did the Holy Spirit appear to the Apostles during Pentecost?
(Answer found on last page.)



What is “St. Michael’s Lent”?

Have you ever heard of this devotion that honors St. Michael?

“St. Michael’s Lent” is a beautiful devotion in honor of St. Michael the Archangel. It is a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance—a miniature Lent, you might say—that runs from the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th to the great archangel’s feast day on September 29th.

This devotion comes to us from the life of St. Francis of Assisi, who was deeply devoted to St. Michael and the angels. He practiced this “Lent” himself, as mentioned in St. Bonaventure’s famous biography of him and in *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, a collection of stories about the early Franciscans.

St. Michael’s Lent, in fact, forms the backdrop to one of the most famous events in the life of St. Francis. A couple years before his death, the saint was inspired to spend St. Michael’s Lent on a certain mountain called La Verna. Here, close to the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14th), he received the wounds of Our Lord’s Passion in his own body: the stigmata. The Franciscans celebrate St. Francis’ reception of the stigmata with a feast on September 17th.



Saint Francis Receiving the Stigmata by El Greco

St. Michael’s Lent, like the original Lent, excludes Sundays (and, we presume, feast days—there aren’t strict rules since it is a devotion rather than an obligation).

We should all foster devotion to St. Michael, our great helper and defender in our battle with the devil. Practicing St. Michael’s Lent is a great way to do it—but don’t be intimidated, you can practice it in whatever way and to whatever extent you can! Even a little given with love and devotion has measureless value in the eyes of God and His angels.

Wielding a sharpened sword and the legendary scales of justice, Archangel Michael spreads his wings to take his place of honor as Christ comes to avenge His Church.
<https://getfed.catholiccompany.com>

IF WE DON'T TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO FOLLOW JESUS,
THE WORLD WILL TEACH THEM NOT TO."
- AUTHOR UNKNOWN

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

THE FIRE



This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn’t know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie — an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I’m not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I’ve been reading this book I’ve come to see that it’s not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God’s peace, yes. And I’m sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn’t the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn — an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?
Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – August 14, 2025©Lpi.

CATHOLIC RESOURCES: Check out what other [parishes](#) for what they may have to offer on their websites. Join **Formed** for more content in movies, books, and talks at <https://formed.org/>. The **Diocese of Fairbanks** website is working on bringing us a Diocesan Religious Library <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/religious-education>.



Stewardship Report

August 10: \$ 960.50
Actual Collection YTD
7/25- 6/26: \$ 15,108.16
Parishioner Count: 98

We are grateful to the many parishioners who continue to support the parish week after week! We rely on this support to promote our mission of supporting students!

Stewards Truth

“Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” LUKE 12:51

Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves with our family and friends, especially when it comes to politics and religion. We don't want to cause any turmoil. However, many times this is at the expense of the truth. The truth being Jesus Christ. Too many people are misguided because they rely on their own limited human ability to reason and are not allowing faith in God to guide them. Form your conscience; take a stance through Stewardship for life, marriage, and religious liberty.

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.

- ...respect for life from conception to natural death.
- ...all students and their families as they return to school to accomplish goals set to meet in the coming year.
- ...those connected to our community are sick and suffering or who have passed away in the past year. May our prayers be heard to bring them comfort and healing.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate.” (Luke 13:24)

A vocation to the priesthood or religious life is a challenging but rewarding path. If you feel called to follow Christ through this narrow gate, embrace it with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.



St. Therese, patroness of missions, pray for us!

“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 Moscatti

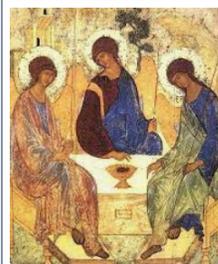
Job Opening with the Diocese of Fairbanks

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. 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.

Job Opportunity at Eielson AFB Chapel

Eielson AFB Chapel is looking 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 programming and administration. Contact today at Trinitee Bee, LLC at (937) 234-7269 for details or email: triniteebec.llc@outlook.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 or 907-452-3533 for more information.



The Diocese will be holding a Catechist's Retreat on Saturday, August 23rd. The retreat will be from 9am to 5pm and will be held at St. Raphael Church in Fairbanks. The theme of this retreat will reflect on the Jubilee Year of Hope through the words of 1 Peter 3:15 “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” The retreat will include time for daily Mass, prayer, some instruction on upcoming changes to Diocesan policy, talks on practical theology and presentations on two teaching styles from two of the DREs of our diocese, Mother Way of Salvation and Heather Kimmerling. Please contact our office at stmark@cbna.org if you would like to attend.

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: Tongues of Fire. Lpi

