



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

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

8/23: 5:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner for Fr. Ross Tozzi after SHC
4:30PM Mass in Social Hall for 10 years of service!

8/24: [Young Adult Berry Picking Outing Cancelled](#)

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: Prophecy

The certain prediction of future events that cannot be known by natural means. However, the biblical meaning of the Hebrew *hozeh* (prophecy) is more general, namely "vision" or "revelation interpreted." Those who were called upon to prophesy did, indeed, on occasion also foretell future events, but these predictions fulfilled were divine confirmations of an authentic vision rather than the vision itself. Prophecies as predictions are consequently part of God's supernatural providence. God, in whose sight all things future are ever present, is able to communicate to his creatures the knowledge that he has. He alone finally has this power, because certain foreknowledge of the contingent future is possessed only by God. Prophecies are the words of his prescience, just as miracles are the work of his omnipotence. Hence a religion supported by prophecies must be divine. (Ety. Greek *prophētēs*, one who speaks for a god, interpreter, expounder, prophet; literally, one who speaks of another.) <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/>

August 24, 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

"MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR. FOR MANY, I TELL YOU, WILL TRY TO ENTER AND WILL NOT BE ABLE.

- LUKE 13:24

First Reading: *Isaiah 66:18-21*

Nations of every language shall come to see my glory.

Responsorial: *Psalms 117:1-2*

Praise the Lord, all you nations.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13*

Whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:22-30*

People will come from north and south, east and west, and take their place in the Kingdom of God.

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



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: As summer comes to an end and with school just around the corner, there may be children in your community who are worried. They may not have the things they need to start the new school year. When we are worried about food, shelter, and other basic life issues, we aren't always capable of doing well in school or succeeding in any of our life endeavors. Your challenge this week is to see if there is something you, your family, friends, or parish community can do to help those children in need. Are there organizations that collect school supplies, clothing, shoes, and backpacks? Do some research and find a way to get involved. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the First Reading: Isaiah prophesies that salvation is offered to all peoples (“from all the nations”). The gospel makes clear a condition for salvation: those who desire salvation must journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and accept all this entails.

... to experience: Our society tends to declare, “numero uno!” We tend to want to be first, to find things easy, to have everything handed to us on a silver platter.



This gospel says exactly the opposite. We are not first—Christ is. Things will not be easy—the road to salvation is narrow, difficult, demanding. Every-thing will not be handed to us—rather, we are asked to hand ourselves over. www.liturgy.slu.edu

The Narrow Door

Jesus answered them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.” (Luke 13:24)

Adults: What daily choices are you making that will allow you to be recognized at the doorway of the reign of God?

Kids: What good habits are you practicing in order to be a good Christian? <https://pastoral.center>

Weekly Prayer of the Faithful

That through our good stewardship,
We may build up God's kingdom here
On earth and earn a place
At God's eternal banquet.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: According to the Gospel stories, who was the first person to encounter the risen Jesus?
(Answer found on last page.)

St. Mark Student Masses on campus will begin after Labor Day. Weekday and time are yet to be determined.
(This is based on student class schedules.)

Just a reminder

Harding Lake and Denali Park Masses will end after Labor Day.



What are the traditional intentions of the Holy Father?

We pray for them often—what exactly are the intentions of the Holy Father?

You probably pray for the “intentions of the Holy Father” often—at the end of the Rosary, while praying the Morning Offering, even during Mass. Praying for these intentions is one of the requirements for gaining a plenary indulgence. But what are these intentions? Are they something specific?

The “intentions of the Holy Father” that we pray for as a part of various devotions are not only his personal or monthly intentions—though we include these too. But we also pray for specific, objective intentions directly related to the well-being of the Church and her faithful. In fact, the Church has established six traditional intentions of the Holy Father (some sources you may read list four or five):



1. The Exaltation of the Church
2. The Propagation of the Faith
3. The Extirpation of Heresy
4. The Conversion of Sinners
5. The Concord between Christian Princes
6. The Further Welfare of the Christian People

The Church is under attack, both from external and internal forces, and it is of the utmost importance that we continue to steadfastly pray for her and our Church leaders. Since the Pope is our leader here on earth, his intentions are intertwined with the intentions of the whole Church. Let us not abandon our Church! May we be renewed in our urgency to pray for our Holy Father and his intentions!

The 800+ prayers of the Raccolta touch practically every spiritual and physical need, and every personal and societal hope. <https://getfed.catholiccompany.com>

“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



Pray for a successful 2025-2026 school year for our students and their families.

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
HEAVEN AND REGINA GEORGE



There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. “You can’t sit with us!” is one of those phrases.

It’s from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: “You can’t sit with us.”

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives “Mean Girls” vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, “I do not know where you are from.”

Very “you-can’t-sit-with-us.”

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today’s Gospel aren’t people who wanted a seat at God’s lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George’d their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus’ whole thing was that you *can* sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you’re from and whatever you’ve done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like “repent” and “be good to that person you really don’t like.” It’s not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice. Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – August 21, 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> .

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



Stewardship Report

August 24: \$ 1,846.53
Actual Collection YTD
7/25- 6/26: \$ 16,939.69
Parishioner Count: 114

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 Accomplishments

“For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.” LUKE 13:30

Our cultural standards are different from God’s standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, “What have you done with the gifts I have given you?” How will you respond? How have you lived Stewardship?

How Are the Prayer Intentions Chosen?

The faithful from around the world suggest papal prayer intentions in each country to their national office, which selects some of them and sends those to the international office of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network in Vatican City. Through prayerful discernment the international office selects a large number of them and submits them to the Pope to help his discernment. After his prayer and discernment he entrusts to the International Director of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network the official set of monthly prayer intentions, which are then translated into the major world languages and published in print and digital formats. <https://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>



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 for 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 and bring them comfort and healing.

Twenty-First 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.

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.stmarksuaaf.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!*

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 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.

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.

“FOR BEHOLD, SOME ARE LAST WHO WILL BE FIRST, AND SOME ARE FIRST WHO WILL BE LAST.”
LUKE 13:30

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: Mary Magdalene.

