



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 31, 2025 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C



First Reading: *Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29*

Humble yourself and you will find favor with God.

Responsorial: *Psalm 68:4-7,10-11*

The just rejoice and exult before God.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24*

You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 14:1,7-14*

When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

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

9/1: Labor Day – Chancery & Parish Offices Closed.

9/1: World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

9/2: Funeral Mass for John Hebard at SHC – 3:00 PM

9/13: Altar Server Training at SHC 10:00 AM

9/21: Catechetical Sunday

9/28: 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: Creation

The production of material and spiritual things in their whole substance, done by God and of nothing. God creates out of nothing both because he starts with no pre-existing matter and because he parts with nothing of his own being in the act of creation. Thus, creation in the proper sense (first creation) is to be distinguished from the so-called second creation described in Genesis, by which is understood the shaping of formless matter and giving it life and activity.

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

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.”

~ G.K. Chesterton

BLESSINGS ON YOUR LABOR DAY!

Music of the Mass Aug 31

218 – God, We Praise You

210 – Humbly, Lord, We Worship You

418 – Earthen Vessels

207 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

385 – City of God

Heritage Mass Responses 872-879

Funeral at Sacred Heart Cathedral for



John Alton Hebard

May 23, 1963 – January 27, 2025

Tuesday, September 2nd at 3:00 PM

Reception will be held in the Social Hall afterwards.

Please offer your prayers for the repose of his soul, As well as for his family and loved ones who are grieving.



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/registration>.

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: 1st meeting is 9/8, 12:30-2:30pm. 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

Oratory & Third Order – Sept. 6th *talks in the spirit of the Institute of the Incarnate Word.*

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 St. Mark office if you are interested in Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, or Marriage. Proper paperwork, instructions, and planning are necessary. **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: The powerful Gospel this Sunday has Jesus teaching us to be humble and not seek the best seat in the house. He also wants us to be hospitable to the most marginalized people in our communities. He tells his followers to invite the “poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind” to our banquets—in other words, those who can't pay us back. Your challenge this week is to extend an invitation to someone less fortunate than you—to a family barbecue, breakfast, a movie, or just coffee. Go out of your comfort zone and share your own blessings with someone who cannot pay you back.

<https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... **to the First Reading:** Humility is, in part, knowing one's strengths and weaknesses (see [First Reading](#)) and one's place ([Gospel](#)). But it is more. Humility is the virtue by which we acknowledge our status before God: we are “the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind” who come to God's table because of God's invitation and generosity.



... **to experience:** Jesus in this Gospel is not negating meals with family and friends! He is teaching us that our generosity must extend beyond our immediate circle to include everyone—especially those in need—whom we might meet. www.liturgy.slu.edu

Seeking Humility

Jesus said, “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

(Luke 14:13–14)

Adults: Has the hunger for status and influence in the world around you endangered your life as a Christian?
Kids: Does it make you a better person to be chosen first for a team or some other honor? Why or why not?
<https://pastoral.center>

Work has a distinct value.

There is no doubt that human work has an ethical value of its own, which clearly and directly remain linked to the fact that the one who carries it out is a person, a conscious and free subject, that is to say a subject that decides about himself. (§6) – *Pope Saint John Paul II*

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which grotto located in France is by millions of pilgrims every year?
(Answer found on last page.)

St. Mark Student Masses on campus will begin after Labor Day. Weekday and time are yet to be determined. Check website at: <https://www.stmarksuaf.org/csa-young-adults/>

Catholic Answers

Does Watching Mass on the Internet Fulfill My Sunday Obligation?



Question:

Does viewing Mass on the internet satisfy our Sunday obligation?

Answer:

During September, as in all of *Tempus per Annum*, or Ordinary Time (formerly known as *Time After Pentecost*), the Liturgy does not focus on one particular mystery of Christ, but views the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. We follow the life of Christ through the Gospels, and focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for us to be a follower of Christ. During Ordinary Time we can concentrate more on the saints and imitate their holiness as Christ's followers.

And for more on possibly missing Sunday Mass, [please see our related response](#). <https://www.catholic.com>

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>.

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



Altar Serving for masses held at Sacred Heart will be held Sept 13th at 10am. Looking for volunteers, male or female, to step up and help serve at our 5:30pm Sunday Mass— young & old—you'll make a difference!!

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!

September is dedicated to [Our Lady of Sorrows](#), whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15th.

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?



Moms have a lot of jobs, and it's usually the case that none of them pay very well.

My work as a chef? Zero compensation, and my clientele are very rarely pleased with my efforts. My role as a teacher, a maid, a chauffeur, a therapist — same deal. Ironically, these jobs consume so much of my time that I am constricted in my work as a writer — the only sphere where I do actually garner any earnings.

It is so easy to grumble about all of this, and I do it all the time. Because despite the fact that I know better, I expect repayment for my good deeds. Deep in my soul, I expect it.

That's a huge problem.

In my defense, I don't think this is a very uncommon thing. I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. We want our day to go smoothly. We expect these things as a matter of course; we feel entitled to them, and we become grumpy when we are denied them. *I worked so hard. I gave so much. What was it all even for?*

But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

When you hold a banquet, Jesus said, invite those who cannot return the favor. Give not just without the expectation of repayment, but without the possibility of it.

Think about that for a minute. What does that even *look* like — no possibility of payment?

I know what that looks like in my own life. It's giving more to the literal poor, yes, but it's also giving more — and more happily, more lovingly — when I cook and clean and drive and write and console. It's not lamenting that no one appreciates me — it's actually hoping no one does.

It's learning to love the lowest place at the table. Because in the lowest place, we are closest to God.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – August 28, 2025©Lpi.



Stewardship Report

August 24: \$ 1,216.01
Actual Collection YTD
7/25- 6/26: \$ 18,140.70
Parishioner Count: 108

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 Lifestyle

Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you."

LUKE 14:13-14

One of the main principles of living a Stewardship lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our "consumerist" culture that we live in. This is even difficult for many parish communities that have become heavily dependent on parish fundraising events to support the mission and ministry of their local parish. Generally speaking, at a parish fundraiser, you pay money and receive something in return, it's just a financial transaction. This is opposed to our parish offertory at Holy Mass, where you unite your sacrifice with Jesus, renewing our covenant relationship with Him.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

World Prayer for Ukraine: We join our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who, through the spiritual initiative "World Prayer for Ukraine," are asking the Lord to grant peace to their war-torn country. <https://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>



SEPTEMBER 2025 PRAYER INTENTION

For our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

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

...to the community and families of Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis who were victims of violence.

...those connected to our community are sick and suffering or who have passed away in the past year, especially John Hebert whose funeral will be Sept 2nd.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

(Luke 14:11)

Humility is at the heart of every vocation. Could God be calling you to humble service as a religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.

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.

"Be STILL AND KNOW THAT HE IS GOD (PS 46:1) BY SPENDING TIME IN SILENCE OR ADORATION AND ALLOW GOD TO SPEAK TO YOUR HEART."

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: Lourdes.

