



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

9/7: World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

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

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

9/21: Catechetical Sunday

9/28: Religious Education begins at SHC

10/3: Jubilee Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral – 5:30 PM

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/>

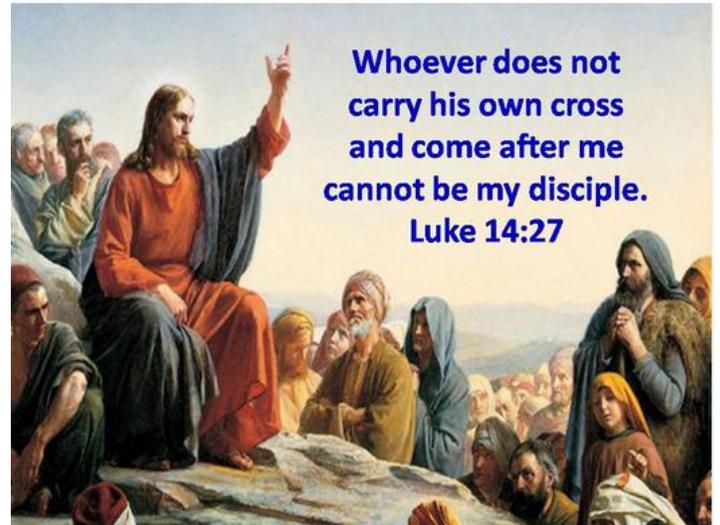


Thank you to all for honoring
John Hebard

With your kindness and support to his family
by helping with the reception after the funeral on Sept 2nd.
Please continue to keep Dorothy and her children in your
prayers during these challenging times.

September 7, 2025

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C



First Reading: *Wisdom 9:13-18b*

Knowledge alone has limits. We also need wisdom to understand the ways of God.

Responsorial: *Psalm 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14-17*

God's power has no boundaries; it is not limited by space and time.

Second Reading: *Philemon 9-10, 12-17*

Paul encourages one of his converts to consider his former slave a brother in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 14:25-33*

Jesus teaches about the demands of discipleship.

Music of the Mass Sept

206 – Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

458 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus

663 – Be Still, My Soul

391 – The Summons

205 – Now Thank We All Our God!

Heritage Mass 872-879



Bishop Steven Maekawa, O.P.
cordially invites the entire
Diocese to a **Jubilee Mass** at
Sacred Heart Cathedral on
Friday **October 3rd** at 5:30,
followed by barbeque and
bonfires in celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope!



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>

SUNDAY

Religious Education (SHC): Starting Sept 28th from 9:30-10:30am. *Families of St. Mark are encouraged to register with SHC* at <https://sacredheartak.org/re-registration>.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st of the month. 9/8 - 12:30-2:30pm in SHC Community Room. The Children of Men by P.D. James c. 1992. For more info, contact Jan Fortune at: 43janetf@gmail.com

TUESDAY

Voices of Hope Prayer Group: Every Tuesday from 6 – 8:30pm in the Community Room at SHC.
O CIA Classes: Begin Sep 23 at 7:00pm at SHC.

THURSDAY

Adoration: 8 AM – 12 Noon at Sacred Heart Cathedral.
Voces Verbi Teens: 6-7:30pm (ages 13-17)

FRIDAY

Voces Verbi: 6:00-8:00pm Friday at Immaculate Conception Church. (Young Adults ages 18-35).
To request Food Boxes - people may call in orders at (907) 374-0572 from 10:00 –11:30am and pick up their food boxes from 12:15 – 1:00pm.

SATURDAY

Oratory & Third Order – Held Sacred Heart Cathedral from 10am-12noon.
Confessions & Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament – 3:00 – 4:00 PM at SHC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spiritual Exercises Silent Ignatian Retreat – Men's – Oct 2-5, 2025; Women's – Oct 9-12, 2025
Sign up at: <https://www.iccfairbanks.org/se>

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

New policies for sacramental preparation in our diocese have been approved and are in effect starting this month, September 2025. You can find them at: <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/sacramental-preparation-guidelines>.

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).

Anointing of the Sick – Contact Fr. Ross at 907-347-3005.

Mass Intention Requests: Contact SHC office at 907-474-9032.



Justice Challenge: This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 14:25-33) challenges us to take up our cross and follow Jesus. In this same passage, we are called to renounce our possessions. That may seem a bit harsh—

and really hard to do. But if we put the two messages together, we understand that taking up our cross does require sacrifice. We can live up to this challenge by becoming less attached to things and more attached to people. Just as Jesus gave up everything—prestige, power, life itself—to redeem us, we are called to make sacrifices and give up things to help those in need. We do this because, as our U.S. Bishops wrote, we Catholics believe that people are more important than things. Your challenge this week is to choose one possession you have which takes up a lot of your time. It may be an electronic gadget, your television, or your phone. Take the time you would have spent playing one game, listening to music, or watching a program, and spend the time instead being present to someone who needs companionship, listening to someone who never gets heard, or helping someone in need

<https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the First Reading: The reading from Wisdom reminds us that “the deliberations of mortals are timid.” Jesus, however, challenges us to be anything but timid. With bold calculation and conviction, we are to embrace the cross. This is the way of discipleship.

... 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

Discerning God's Will

For who can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail. (Wisdom 9:13-14)

Adults: How do you try to discover what God is asking of you?

Kids: When is it hard for you to know the right thing to do? Who helps you know? <https://pastoral.center>

Saint John Paul II speaks of the extraordinary grace of aging: “...they (the aging) have entered a period of extraordinary grace, with new opportunities for prayer and union with God...(they have) been endowed with *new spiritual forces* (italics mine) with which to serve others and to make a fervent offering of their lives to the Lord and Giver of life” (*Address of John Paul II to the Participants in the International Forum on Active Aging, #A.*)

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What does the word “dalmatic” mean?
(Answer found on last page.)



After a delay caused by the death of Pope Francis, Pope Leo XIV will preside over the **canonizations of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis Sept 7 at St. Peter's in Vatican City.**

Blessed Carlo Acutis was Born in 1991 and raised in Milan. [Blessed Acutis](#) used his tech skills to evangelize and is known for his devotion to the Eucharist and creating an online exhibition of Eucharistic miracles. Noteworthy as well are His joyful faith and compassion for others before dying of leukemia in 2006 at age 15.

[Blessed Giorgio Frassati](#), born in 1901 into a prominent family in Turin, Italy, was admired for his deep spirituality, love for the poor and enthusiasm for life. A member of the Dominican Third Order, he served the sick through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He died at age 24 after contracting polio, possibly from one of the people he assisted. His motto “Verso l’Alto” (to the heights) is inscribed on the photo of himself mountain climbing.

The two Italian laymen will be the first saints proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV. We ask that they pray for all of us as we center our lives on Jesus and aim for the heights “heavenly glory”.

Catholic Answers

Question:

How did the Church determine that September 8 is the birthday of our Blessed Mother?



Answer:

Usually, the Church assigns dates for particular feasts. The assignments can be based on the date of a saint's death, a date that has special meaning in the saint's life, or some other meaningful date. In the case of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, Sept 8 is the date that follows nine months after Dec 8, on which date the Church celebrates the [feast of the Immaculate Conception](#) of Mary.

<https://www.catholic.com>



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!!

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

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
HOW TO HATE THE CHRISTIAN WAY



When I was a kid, we had the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

It was a chair in my parents' foyer where an offending child had to sit for five or ten minutes if they uttered the words “dumb,” “stupid” or “hate.” The rules in my house growing up were very clear. We don't call anyone stupid. We don't call anyone dumb. And we hate no one and nothing.

Well, today, Jesus has to sit in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

For someone who talks about love so much — for whom love is a legacy and a commandment — it seems weird that in today's Gospel Jesus is calling us to hatred. It makes us question everything we think we understand about him, about God, about discipleship.

I'll let you guess which of the kids in my family spent the most time in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair (Hi! It was me). But I didn't really think my sister was stupid, and I didn't really hate my brother. Those were just the words I used, even though they were strictly forbidden — maybe because they were strictly forbidden. They were the strongest words I knew, and you need strong words for strong feelings.

Jesus knew that hate is a really strong word. It's a word that gets people's attention. And I think what he wants to do today, more than anything, is get our attention. He wants to force us to consider the ways in which our attachments to this world — and even to other people — supersede our attachment to God. He wants us to radically evaluate what (and who) we love and how we love it and how much of our souls, our lives, ourselves we have let this love consume.

It's a tough assignment, and we don't like it. Maybe we kind of hate it. That's okay: hate has its place. So, take a seat in the chair and give it a ponder.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – August 28, 2025©Lpi.

Weekly Prayer Intention

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



Stewardship Report

August 31: \$ 928.76
Actual Collection YTD
7/25- 6/26: \$ 19,254.46
Parishioner Count: 100

Your financial stewardship is a blessing. Thank You!
Visit WeShare for online giving at:
<http://www.stmarksuaf.org>.

Live Stewardship

Every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

LUKE 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we in Stewardship can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

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

...the victims of the earthquake that struck Afghanistan.
...the family's friends, and community of those killed and injured in the Annunciation Catholic School shooting.
...individuals and families who are sick or suffering.
...our loved ones who have passed away in the past year, especially John Hebard, and those they leave behind.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

Every vocation involves sacrifice. Whether you are married, learning to put your spouse's needs before your own, or a priest choosing to forgo family life to serve others, each path involves laying down your desires for the sake of love. Trust that Christ will provide you with the strength to follow Him on your journey. 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@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 First end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God;
secondly, to do it in the manner he will it; and
thirdly, to do it because it is his will.
~ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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>

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: A dalmatic is the outer vestment worn by a deacon. It was introduced from Dalmatia (hence its name) to Rome as a secular garment in the reign of Diocletian (284-305).

"If you don't behave as you believe, you will end by believing as you behave.
The world tells us to seek success, power, and money;
God tells us to seek humility, service, and love."

~ Archbishop Fulton Sheen