



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

9/15: Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

9/20: Diocesan Movie Night – 7 PM at ICC

9/22: Diocesan Bible Study – 7 PM in SHC Mary Chapel

9/23: Young Adult Feast and Faith – 5:30 PM at Miguel's.

9/28: Religious Education 9:30-10:30 AM 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: Doxology

A hymn or formula of praise to God. "Glory to God in the Highest," recited or sung at Mass, is known as the greater doxology. "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit" is the lesser doxology. (Etm. Greek doxa, opinion, glory + logia, science, knowledge.)

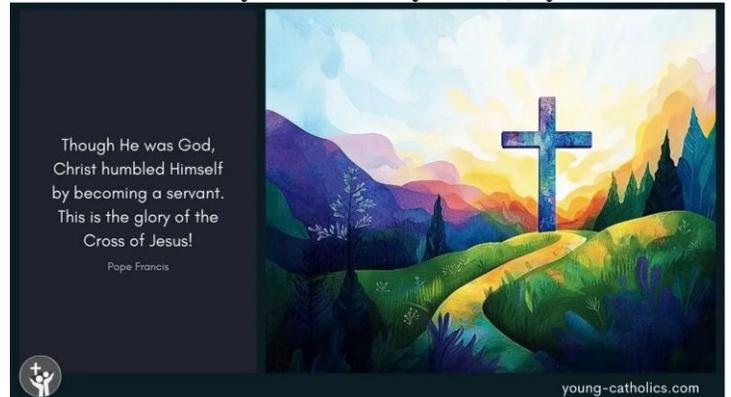
<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/>

Low Gluten Host – If you are in need of a low-gluten at Mass, please contact the priest before mass.



keep our priests, religious, and sisters in your prayers.

September 14, 2025 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C



First Reading: Numbers 21:4b–9

Moses made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he or she was healed.

Responsorial: Psalm 78:1–2, 34–34, 36–37, 38

Do not forget the works of the Lord.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6–11

Jesus Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped.

Gospel Reading: John 3:13–17

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Music of the Mass – Sept 14

705 – Lift High the Cross

160 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

716 – At the Name of Jesus

703 – Who is The Crucified

714 – Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Heritage Mass 872-879



BISHOP STEVE MAEKAWA 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!





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 downstairs in the Classrooms. *Families of St. Mark are encouraged to register with SHC* at

<https://sacredheartak.org/re-registration> .

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st of the month from 12:30-2:30pm in SHC Community Room. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: 43janetf@gmail.com

Diocesan Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew will be studied. Open to all at 7:00pm in the Mary Chapel of SHC .

TUESDAY

Voices of Hope Prayer Group: Every Tuesday from 6 – 8:30pm in the Community Room at SHC.

OCIA Classes: Begin Sept 23rd at 7:00pm at SHC

Young Adult Feast and Faith: Monthly event for young adults including dinner, fellowship, and formation! Food & beverages provided, alcohol not included. Meet at Miquel’s next to Shopper’s Forum at 5:30pm.

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 date or call the parish office at 907-374-9544*



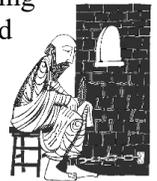
Justice Challenge: National Hispanic Heritage Month begins September 15. The Hispanic culture is deeply woven into the fabric and history of our country. We have received many gifts of faith from this

culture, including a deep devotion to Our Blessed Mother through her appearances to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady told Juan Diego that he had dignity and reminded him that he was made in God’s image. Your challenge this week is to learn about a faith practice of a culture in your community (other than your own culture). It might be a particular prayer, or a spiritual practice, or devotion to a particular saint. As a family, celebrate this gift of culture by trying the prayer or practice in your home. Then offer a prayer of thanks to God for the gift of the culture from which you learned the practice.

<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

Exaltation of the Cross

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Adults: What is something you can give up this week to make more time for prayer or service?

Kids: Have you ever had to give something up (sacrifice)? Was it hard? <https://pastoral.center>

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

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

Donations for Soup Kitchen at ICC With colder weather coming they are always in need of more food, warm clothing items, and help.

Check on ICC’s site for how you can help with any of these at www.iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen.



Respect the Life Month
– October 2025

Sunday October 5th is Respect Life Sunday We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.

Catholic Answers

Question:

May the Holy Eucharist be chewed or is it to be allowed to dissolve in the mouth?



Answer:

The host may be chewed or simply permitted to dissolve in one's mouth. Before the advent of modern hosts, the host would have been more bread-like, and for centuries Christians would have had to chew the Eucharist. In the past few centuries the modern host has evolved, and Christians who are uneasy with the idea of chewing the Real Presence can opt to simply let the host dissolve in their mouths.

There is no directive from the Church on this matter. Either way is an acceptable manner of receiving the Eucharist. <https://www.catholic.com>

As we commemorate the triumph of Christ's Cross, call to mind the crosses you bear each day. More often than not, when faced with crosses, we seek a way out, succumb to self-pity, and are often tempted by anger and despair. Instead, try to allow Jesus to enter those crosses, transform them, and use them for His glory, your good, and the good of others. Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed. Although the suffering may remain, it must become redeemed suffering, thus bearing an abundance of good fruit in ways that only God can accomplish.



Prayer: Most glorious and triumphant Lord, You gave Your life for the salvation of my soul, using the most horrific act of cruelty as the means of Your redeeming grace. I open myself to that grace today and pray that You bestow it in superabundance. I also pray that I will have the courage and wisdom to embrace my crosses every day of my life, uniting them to Your Cross, and trusting that You will use these sacrifices as a means of the further bestowal of Your love on the world. Saving Cross of Christ, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You. www.mycatholic.life



The September **Ember Days** fall after the third Sunday of September (September 24, 26, & 27) near the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) and are days of thanksgiving for the completed harvest of fruits and grapes, being historically commemorated as a "wine-press feast." But these Ember Days

are also days of penance and atonement since the traditional liturgy connected them with the Jewish celebration of the New Year and Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. The Stational churches were part of the Ember Days, with Ember Fridays always being the Station with the Twelve Holy Apostles (*Santi Dodici Apostoli*, also *Santi Apostoli*).

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



“Holiness isn’t for wimps,” Mother Angelica famously said. “And the cross isn’t negotiable, sweetheart — it’s a requirement.”

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is *tough*, and to do it you have to make a decision to *be tough*, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today’s readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness *is* for wimps, *because* the cross isn’t negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses’ staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn’t do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn’t right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We’re wimps; that’s what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – September 11, 2025©Lpi.

Weekly Prayer

My Lord, I thank You for giving everything to save me. Help me to understand that Your calling is an opportunity, never a condemnation, never a punishment. Amen

“Truly, O Blessed Mother, a sword has pierced your heart. He died in body through a love greater than anyone had known. She died in spirit through a love unlike any other since His.” – St Bernard



Stewardship Report

September 14: \$ 1,453.23

Actual Collection YTD

7/25- 6/26: \$ 20,737.69

Parishioner Count: 144

Your financial stewardship is a blessing. Thank You!

Visit WeShare for online giving at:

<http://www.stmarksuaf.org>.

Stewardship Repayment

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”
JOHN 3:16

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus’ example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. This core message is the basis for the Stewardship of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?



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.

respect.

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

...victims of natural disasters and armed conflict around the world.

...all who have lost their lives to violent crimes against humanity.

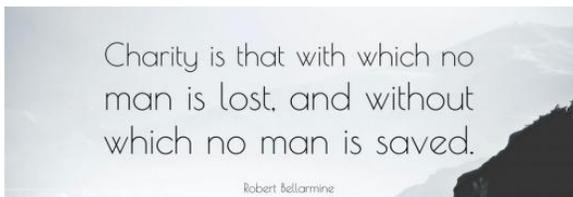
...family’s, friends, and community of those killed and injured in the Annunciation Catholic School shooting.

...our dearly departed and those they leave behind

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Just as Christ selflessly gave Himself for the sake of humanity, you may be invited to reflect that profound love by dedicating your life to the service of others. Are you open to discerning whether God is calling you to share in this mission through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Allow yourself to ponder the depth of this calling. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.



Fairbanks Diocese is Hiring

The Diocese is hiring for a Chief Financial Officer (CFO). 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 FIRST 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 our other [parishes](#) have to offer by going to their 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).

Crying out to God during moments of extreme trial does not mark a crisis of faith but can reflect an act of total surrender to and enduring trust in God, Pope Leo XIV said at his Sept. 10th general audience.

