



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-](mailto: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

CSA Weekday Mass: 7:00 PM at UAF Lola Tilly Commons

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

Confessions: Saturday at 3pm at SHC or before 5:30pm Mass

Eucharistic Adoration at SHC: Thursday 8 AM – 12 Noon

CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

9/21: Catechetical Sunday

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

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

9/23: OCIA Classes begin at SHC 7 PM downstairs

9/27: Oratory at SHC 10 AM – 12 Noon

9/28: Religious Education 9:30-10:30 AM at SHC

9/28: Religious Education 11 – 11:45 AM at ICC

10/1: Feast of St. Therese 6PM Mass & 7PM Potluck at ICC

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

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

10/5: Respect Life Sunday

10/11: HIPOW Auction & Dinner

10/17-19: Diocesan Fall Engaged Encounter

Catholic Definition: Mammon

The word in Aramaic for wealth, riches. Several times Jesus contrasted love of God and love of money as mutually exclusive goals in life (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13).

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

To all who have been called to serve as a Catechist:

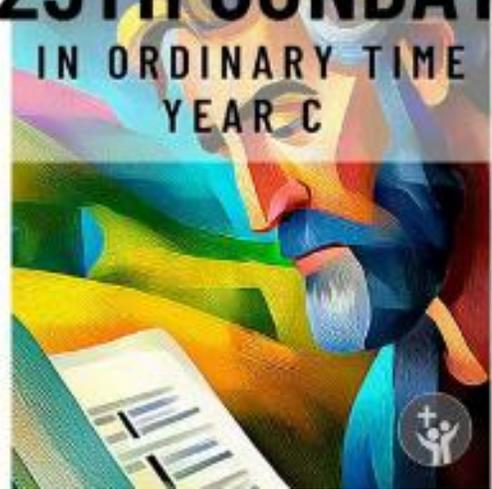
MAY GOD OUR FATHER, THE FATHER OF LOVE,

FILL YOU WITH CONFIDENCE AND JOY

AS YOU PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

September 21, 2025

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C



First Reading: *Amos 8:4-7*

Unfair business practices and injustice to the poor will be judged by God.

Responsorial: *Psalms 113: 1-2, 4-6, 7-8*

Praise be to God, who raises up the poor.

Second Reading: *1 Timothy 2:1-8*

Paul tells Timothy that prayer for those in authority is pleasing to God because God wills the salvation of all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 16:1-13*

Jesus tells a parable about a dishonest steward who is commended for his prudence; one cannot serve both God and money.

Music of the Mass – Sept 21

553 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

631 – God of Day and God of Darkness

347 – I Receive the Living God My God,

I Love Thee

620 – Lord Whose Love in Humble Service

Heritage Mass 872-879



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



The fall diocesan Engaged Encounter retreat is scheduled for 17-19 October 2025 at St. Nicholas Parish in North Pole. Couples can register online at <https://fairbanks.engagedencounter.com/>. The registration deadline is October 10th. Contact fairbanks@engagedencounter.com with any questions.

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: 43janettf@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.

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

Young Adult Feast and Faith: Monthly event for young adults. 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 at SHC 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: The Responsorial Psalm this Sunday is: “Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor” (Psalm 113). Numerous psalms praise God for caring for the poorest and most vulnerable in our world.

They also invite us to be part of God’s plan for bringing justice to all. Your challenge this week is to peruse the psalms until you find one which speaks to your family of God’s compassion for the poor. (You can also use Psalm 113.) Every day this week, pray at least part of your chosen psalm as a family or household on behalf of a person or community struggling with poverty, hunger, or lack of shelter. Start on Sunday with someone in your neighborhood or local community. Each day stretch your prayer further afield so that you are praying for global needs by the end of the week. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the First Reading: The [First Reading](#) presents the same scenario about the future as does the gospel. God will hold accountable those who serve them- selves for personal gain, and will never forget “a thing they have done.”



... to experience: In the everyday humdrum of life, we rarely think about the ultimate future. Life itself pressures us into shortsighted choices for living. Discipleship, on the other hand, calls us to live in such a way that our daily choices form patterns of behavior that move us toward God’s promise of life eternal.

www.liturgy.slu.edu

The Value of Honesty

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)

Adults: Can cheating and deception ever be justified?

Kids: If someone treats you unfairly, do you have the right to do the same to them? <https://pastoral.center>

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name of the rope/cord used to fasten the alb? (*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.

Today is Catechetical Sunday. This is a weekend to celebrate and consecrate the service of those who are called and gifted to teach our children, youth, and adults! *The task of catechesis is not merely to teach about God. The task of catechesis is to help everyone realize the presence of God in their lives. We do not seek an encounter with a doctrine or a moral code. The encounter is with Christ. We come to understand God’s presence (catechesis) to celebrate it (liturgy) and then live it accordingly.* –taken from “Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us.” A statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

Question:

How does one make a novena?



Answer:

A novena is a nine-prayer petition for a particular intention we may have. We make the novena to God or to one of the saints in heaven to intercede on our behalf with God.

A novena can be an informal one we do on our own, provided it's consistent with Church doctrine, or it can follow the prescriptions of one that the Church has formally approved.

One of the [most popular novenas](#) is the novena connected with the [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#), which can be prayed all year round but is especially recommended beginning Good Friday and leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, also known as the Second Sunday of Easter. Novenas gets their origin from the nine-day period when the apostles, Blessed Mother and other disciples gathered to pray between Christ's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. <https://www.catholic.com>

[Novena to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux](#) – The Novena to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, *The Little Flower*, can be prayed anytime throughout the year for nine days in a row. Traditionally, it is prayed from September 22nd through September 30th. Her Memorial Feast Day is October 1st. We pray the Novena to grow our trust in God's love for us.



Pray: O God, who have instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit; grant that by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be ever truly wise and rejoice in His consolation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

www.mycatholic.life

Let us not grow tired of prayer: confidence works miracles.
~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux (The Little Flower)



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*).



Dealing with money is unpleasant.

You might be good at dealing with money (I am not). You might even do it for a living (I do not). You might be careful to use as much of your money as you can for good purposes (I try to, but man, these skyrocketing grocery prices are killing me).

But ultimately, money does not bring out the best in us. We waste it. We manipulate it. We hoard it. We become obsessed by it. We let pursuit of it define our decisions. Money is something akin to — it corrupts by touch, it seems. But unlike witchcraft, you can't avoid money altogether. It's necessary. These dollars and cents keep us alive in this world, for a time. We need them for food, for warmth, for health.

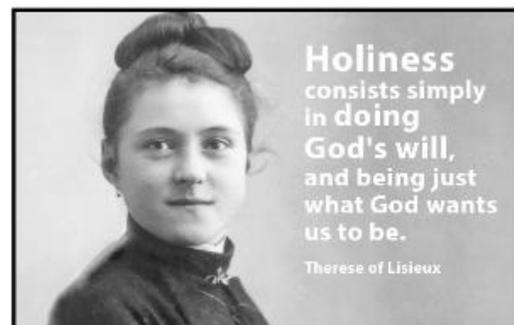
Jesus' parable of the untrustworthy steward sums up all our anxieties surrounding material wealth and the delicate balance we have to strike of caring for our physical needs while prioritizing our spiritual ones. But the parable reminds us that we can't escape money, just like we can't escape the world and all the barriers forged by this world between man and the happiness his Creator intends for him. We could retreat to the highest, remotest mountaintop, but the human condition would follow us there.

We would still feel doubt. We would still feel pain. We would still feel fear. We would still sin.

And we would still be hungry and cold. We would still need money.

Money will never be something that is easy to handle virtuously. But guess what? Nothing in this world is. And it's probably best that we remember that.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – September 18, 2025©Lpi.



"Time spent in honor of God and for the salvation of souls is never badly spent." ~ St. Padre Pio



Stewardship Report

September 14: \$ 1,213.38

Actual Collection YTD

7/25- 6/26: \$ 21,706.07

Parishioner Count: 105

Your financial stewardship is a blessing. Thank You!

Visit WeShare for online giving at:

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

Stewardship Service

No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth)."

LUKE 16:13

Jesus knows that for many of us, God and money run "neck and neck" as top priority. Is money a "god" that you put before God? Giving money to support the Church and other charity is a pillar of our faith, just like attending Mass every Sunday and participating in parish ministry. Giving money through Stewardship frees us from becoming a slave to money. It increases our dependence on God and our trust that God will provide all that we need.



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 clergy, religious, deacons, and volunteers working in our diocese.

...all who answered the call to become a Catechist to teach our children.

...peace in areas of conflict around the world and those who serve to protect us.

...our Catholic students that they may find the wisdom and blessing to devote themselves to their studies.

...members of our parish community and diocese who are sick, deceased, or facing hardship.

...our dearly departed that they may be given the grace to enter Heaven.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"No servant can serve two masters. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Luke 16:13)

A vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life is a call to single-hearted service to God. If you think you have a vocation to one of these, then talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email:

rfath@cbna.org.

IF YOUR FAITH WERE GREATER
HOW MUCH MORE PEACEFUL YOU WOULD BE
EVEN WHEN GREAT TRIALS SURROUND AND OPPRESS YOU.
-- ST. PAULA FRASSINETTI

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.

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. As temperatures are changing, so are the needs of the people they serve. Besides food items, they are accepting men's and women's warm socks, long johns, hats, scarves, and mittens. Contact the Soup Kitchen to see how you can help this mission at iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org or 907-452-3533. Please keep those in need and those who serve in your prayers!

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: Cincture. The cincture is also used to secure the stole to the alb. Its color may change depending on the time of year. (The color usually changes when it is worn by the laity, but usually remains white when it is worn by a priest.)



Respect Life Corner

"Throughout salvation, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. Jesus concludes the parable of the lost sheep with these words: 'there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance' (Luke 15:7)"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Life Matters: Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion"

Let us pray for all whose hearts ache from participating in abortion. May they be strengthened to seek the Lord's compassion, mercy, and healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.