



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

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

All Saints' Day

November 1st

The Feast of All Saints falls on Saturday, Nov 1st, and is therefore not observed as a holy day of obligation this year according to the liturgical calendar issued by the Committee on the Liturgy, USCCB.

Masses at SHC – 10/31 (Fri) - 6pm; 11/1 (Sat) 9am & 10:15am Oratory Mass [*anyone is welcome to attend*].

CALENDAR of EVENTS .

10/22: [Respect Life Novena](#)

10/25: 6 PM Diocesan Movie Night at ICC

10/25-26: Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph Bake Sale after all weekend Masses at SHC.

11/4-6: Priestly Formation Days (Clergy Days)

11/27: Thanksgiving [*Chancery & Church Offices Closed*]

12/6: Diocesan Women's Retreat

12/12: Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe 6pm Mass at SHC

Catholic Definition: Hallow

To recognize as sacred and therefore to treat as holy. In the Lord's prayer, "Hallowed be thy name," it means to honor God's name, i.e., to reverence God and give him the respect and obedience he deserves. It is, therefore, a petition that God may be known, loved, and served by all his creatures. <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

October 26, 2025

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C



First Reading: *Sirach 35:12-14,16-18*

God hears the prayer of the poor.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 34:2-3,17-18,19, 23*

The Lord hears and answers the cry of the poor.

Second Reading: *2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18*

Paul perseveres in faith, confident that God will rescue him.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 18:9-14*

Jesus tells the parable of the proud Pharisee who prayed from his self-importance and the tax collector who prayed humbly.

Music of the Mass – October 26

725 – Lead Me, Lord

518 – Christ, Be Our Light

625 – The Cry of the Poor

574 – Seek Ye First

434 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

* *Mass of Creation 867-871*



"They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed..." Read ahead and have some knowledge of the readings that are read each Sunday.



SUNDAY

Religious Education (SHC): 9:30-10:30am downstairs in the classrooms. *Families of St. Mark are encouraged to attend SHC or ICC religious instruction.*

Young Adult Game Night (SHC): 6:30 PM TBA at SHC.

MONDAY

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

Diocesan Bible Study: Study Matthew at 6:30 pm in the Mary Chapel of SHC October 27th.

TUESDAY

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

OCIA Classes: Every Tuesday at 7:00pm at SHC

Young Adult Feast and Faith: 3rd Tues of the month at Miguel's Authentic Mexican Cuisine. Food & beverages provided, alcohol not included.

WEDNESDAY

Mother's Group: 10AM-Noon. Held at St. Nicholas Parish Great Room in North Pole. Child Care provided. Call or Text April at 907-347-1357.

THURSDAY

Adoration: 8 AM – 12 Noon at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Voces Verbi Teens: 6-7:30pm (ages 13-17).

SHC Holy Hour: 7 PM on 1st Thursday every month.

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.

Diocesan Movie Night – Oct 25th at 6:00 pm held at Immaculate Conception Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Women's Retreat –Saturday, Dec 6th starting at 9am. Contact molsta@cbna.org for more information.

Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat –Feb 6-8, 2026, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. For more info and to register online, visit <https://fairbanks.engagedencounter.com/>

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

New policies for sacramental preparation in our diocese can be found at: <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/sacramental-preparation-guidelines>. Contact St. Mark office if you are interested in sacramental training. 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) months prior to wedding date or call the parish office at 907-374-9544*



Justice Challenge: Sunday's Responsorial Psalm proclaims that "The Lord hears the cry of the poor." The question is: Do WE hear the cry of those in need—in our families, in our communities, in our country, and even in the world? Or are we too focused on our own issues and worries that we tune out the cries of those around us? Your challenge this week is to listen. Be open to hearing the cries of those who suffer from injustice, hatred, hunger, poverty, loneliness, or whatever might be keeping them from living in hope and joy. Listen to people's stories; listen to the news; just listen. Then choose one voice you have heard and decide how you can reach out and help the person whose cry spoke to your heart. It might be just listening further, or it might be donating time or money. The important thing is that you respond to the cry you have heard. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the First Reading: The obvious connection between the [First Reading](#) and [Gospel](#) is that both Moses and the widow persist in their petitions. But there are other connections as well: the widow and Moses are God's "chosen ones"; the petitions are in line with God's will; prayer petitions, when just, are always answered by our just and caring God.

... to experience: We tend to be most persistent about what is most important to us. For example, we are persistent in exercise routines, athletic training, musical practice. So it is with prayer: we remain faithful and persistent in prayer when God is at the center of our life and that for which we ask flows from deep faith that God always hears our prayers and answers them. liturgy.slu.edu

The Reward of Humility

"All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)

Adults: When have you felt self-satisfied in observing the mistakes of others? What should we remember at such times?

Kids: Have you ever thought you were better than someone else? What is the problem with such thoughts?

<https://pastoral.center>

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is Christ often depicted

Pointing to in Christian artwork?

(Answer found on last page.)

Prepare for Confession with Ignatian Examen:

1. Ask God for Light
2. Give Thanks
3. Review your Day
4. Reflect on Shortcomings
5. Look Toward the Day to Come

Use these steps in doing a frequent examination of conscience to strengthen your relationship with Christ. What went right today and what went wrong? What can I do to avoid this in the future? Become self-aware and humble.

Question:

What is the reasoning behind the U.S. bishops moving certain holy days of obligation to the closest Sunday?



Answer:

It's important to remember that, historically, holy days were generally the same as holidays. A holy day of obligation meant that there was no work that day. It was a day of rest and prayer. Mass attendance was but one part of what was expected on those days.

Catholic holy days have their root in Jewish holy days, when all temporal activity was expected to cease. The entire day was dedicated to God, not just an hour of worship.

In modern times this expectation still exists in canon law:

Can. 1247 On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.

Fitting Mass attendance into one's work day is not the spirit of the holy days of obligation. In today's world, outside of a few exceptions, it's simply not the case that the faithful can abstain from work during the week. The Church moves such holy days to Sundays as a way of not building up unnecessary burdens upon the faithful (Matt 23:4).

In some parts of the country (and the world) there is also the practical problem of having enough priests to cover Masses at all the churches on those days.

www.Catholic.com



HALLOWEEN is none other than the beginning of the *Feast of All Saints*. This feast began in the 7th Century in the year 609 (or 610) when the consecration of the Pantheon by Pope Boniface IV as a public place for the Church's worship on May 13th. The Pantheon was originally dedicated for the use of Roman religion as a place where all the gods would be honored. This was a kind of "in your face" to pagan culture. When a chapel in St. Peter's in Rome was dedicated by Pope Gregory III (731-741) on November 1st in honor of all saints, All Saints Day was moved to November 1st.

All Saints is no longer a holy day of obligation everywhere. This year it falls on a Sunday, so it is a holy day of obligation. Regardless of what day it falls each year, there is no greater way to celebrate a feast day than through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The truest and greatest celebration we can give to a saint is the reception of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.



There are some parents on the playground I really can't stand.

You know them, probably, if you're a parent, or if you're not, you know a different version of them. They'll tell you about how their little Brayden is a bilingual violin prodigy who sleeps through the night and only ever asks to snack on vegetables. But as soon as Brayden starts to chase your screaming kid with a stick, they're conveniently scrolling on their phone, unaware.

You're not irritated that their kid is smarter than yours and likes veggies (well, maybe you are, a little). You're irritated that they have tunnel vision. In striving for perfection, they have become unable to acknowledge imperfections.

If you're reading this, you're probably in church. If you're in church, you're probably someone who is concerned with what is right and what is wrong. I've got news for you: that might just make you (and me) more at risk of being like Brayden's parent than the people who stayed home today.

Unclutch your pearls! It was good of you to come to Mass. Definitely keep doing that. That's the right choice. Just don't forget that in making the right choice, we don't *become righteous*.

Look, I'm not going to lie to you. Sometimes, it's my kids who are doing the chasing with the stick. They're kids, and kids do dumb things, just like everyone else. And maybe it's because they hate vegetables and sleep terribly that I'm less reluctant than Brayden's mom to admit their mistakes. It's a hard fall from the pedestal.

If we're churchgoing followers of Christ, we are hopefully people who earnestly want to do the right thing. Maybe, sometimes, we do exactly that. The Pharisee did the right thing sometimes. He fasted. He tithed. But he gazed so long at his own holiness that he became blinded by it. He stood before God, and he could only think of what he had done right.

We need to stay vigilant, folks. Just when you look away, that's when Brayden grabs the stick.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – October 23, 2025©Lpi.

"LOVE IS TO WILL THE GOOD OF THE OTHER."
- ST. THOMAS AQUINAS



October 19: \$ 1,321.00
 Actual Collection YTD
 7/25-6/26: \$ 26,625.63
 Parishioner Count: 95

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!
 3% of our October Collection will go to the annual World Mission Collection. Visit WeShare for online giving at: <http://www.stmarksuaf.org>.

Humble Stewardship

"...for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." LUKE 18:14

Pride and ego are the root causes of most of our sins. Thinking your time is so valuable or your talent is better than anyone else or your money gives you status is another way of making those things "gods" before God. Pride is the opposite of humility. Remember Stewardship. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We should be humbled by God's incredible generosity and be grateful for all we have been given. Ultimately, gratitude leads us to humility.



OCTOBER 2025 PRAYER INTENTION

For collaboration between different religious traditions.

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Please include in your prayers...

- + The recovery of Western Alaska villages and safety of the displaced villagers.
- + Harlee & Alex Harvey family and new baby girl.
- + Our parishioners who are sick, homebound and those confined to nursing facilities and hospitals.
- + Deceased members of our parish.
- + All who serve our country in the Armed Forces and civil servants who serve to protect the public interest of its citizens.
- + For the unborn children.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

(Luke 18:14)

Humility is essential in all vocations, whether it be sacramental marriage, priesthood, or consecrated life. What are some ways you can work on becoming humbler in your life? Have you humbled yourself to ask God what His plan is for you? Talk to a priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email: rfath@cbna.org.

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>

"GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, AN EVER-PRESENT HELP IN DISTRESS."

Almighty God, Creator, and preserver of our world. We ask you to hear our humble prayers for all those affected by our recent storms and flooding in western Alaska. Protect those in need of your mercy and bring relief to all affected by the destruction. Heal those broken in body and spirit and protect the most vulnerable.

AMEN.



DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS

1316 PEGER ROAD · FAIRBANKS, ALASKA · 99709 · 907-374-9500 · FAX: 907-374-9580

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 14, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

I ask that you pray for the people of western Alaska who were affected by the typhoon and storms this past week. For those who lost their lives and for their families and friends. For those whose homes and businesses were destroyed or damaged. For those communities that are without power, heat, and water. For the people working in the rescue and relief efforts.

May all who were affected by the typhoon and storms be encouraged and strengthened by our Lord Jesus. Let us direct our prayers and efforts to support them in their time of need.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Steven J. Maekawa, O.P.
 Bishop of Fairbanks

Soup Kitchen at ICC: Volunteers are the backbone of our ministry; in coming to serve, they are both served and blessed by the Lord of Servants, Jesus. We have a variety of tasks that need to be done on any given day. A list of items needed can be found on their website so that you can donate: www.iccfairbanks.org. The Soup Kitchen can be reached at iccsoupkitchen@cbna.orr, or by phone at 907-452-3533. Please keep those in need and those who serve in your prayers!

CATHOLIC RESOURCES: Information regarding other catholic parishes in the area can be found at the following [websites](#) regarding events that interest you. 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>

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Prayer is the oxygen of the soul. ~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina