



# ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH

The Catholic Community of University of Alaska Fairbanks

1316 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709-5168

Email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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@alaska.edu](mailto:UAF-catholic-Club@alaska.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 host, 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

**11/30: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**12/6: Altar Server Training** at SHC – 10am – Noon

**12/7: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**12/8: Immaculate Conception** at SHC – 7:30am, 12:10 & 6pm

**12/10: Advent Communal SHC/ICC Penance** – 6pm

**12/13: Women Retreat** at St. Raphael's Parish 9am-5:30pm

### Catholic Definition: IMPRIMATUR

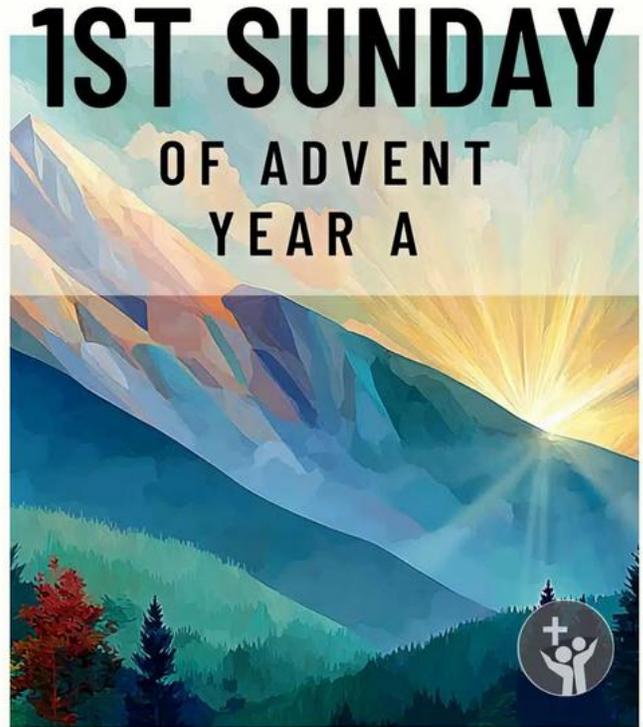
The Latin term for "let it be printed," which signifies the approval by a bishop of a religious work for publication. Authors are at liberty to obtain the imprimatur either from the bishop where they reside, or where the book is to be published, or where it is printed. Generally, the imprimatur, along with the bishop's name and date of approval, is to be shown in the publication. According to a decree of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (1975), "the Pastors of the Church have the duty and the right to be vigilant lest the faith and morals of the faithful be harmed by writings; and consequently even to demand that the publication of writings concerning the faith and morals should be submitted to the Church's approval, and also to condemn books and writings that attack faith or morals." (Etym. Latin imprimere, to impress, stamp imprint.) <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

### Things to bring with you to Catholic Mass:

3- At least one sacrifice that you have made for God or for others during the week.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Cycle A

NOVEMBER 30, 2025



### First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Isaiah describes his vision in which all nations are gathered together by God in peace.

### Responsorial: *Psalms 122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9*

Rejoicing, let us enter the house of the Lord.

### Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14*

Be prepared, salvation is near.

### Gospel Reading: *Matthew 24:37-44*

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.



ADVENT

### Music of the Mass – November 30

47- The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

67-Creator of the Stars of Night

54-Savior of the Nations, Come

(not in book) Lo, He Comes

44-O Come, Divine Messiah

\*Mass of Creation #867-871



## 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):** Next event TBA.

## MONDAY

**SHC Book Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> of the month from 12:30-2:30 pm in SHC Community Room. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - Christmas Party. January book – *He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith* by Fr. Walter Cizek, S.J. c.1973. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: [43janetf@gmail.com](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Bible Study:** Study Matthew at 6:30 pm in the Mary Chapel of SHC Nov. 24. (*Every Monday*)

## 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

**Catholic Student Association (CSA):** 7pm Mass & 7:30 Meeting on campus in Upper Lola Tilly Meeting Room.

**Young Adult Feast and Faith:** *December Event TBA*

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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** – 6 PM Nov 29<sup>th</sup> at Immaculate Conception Church. **On the Waterfront.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Diocesan Women's Retreat** –Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am. Contact [molsta@cbna.org](mailto: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.

**First Communion & Confirmation:** SHC classes are offered during the school year. For more info contact [servidoras@cbna.org](mailto:servidoras@cbna.org). *Please let Fr. Ross or the St. Mark Office know if your child is preparing for these sacraments.*

**Baptism** – Contact Fr. Ross at [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto:rtozzi@cbna.org)

**Marriage Preparations** – Contact Fr. Ross at [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto: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:** The first reading for this Sunday is one with which we are familiar. It is the passage from the Book of Isaiah (2:1-5) describing what the world will be like when the Messiah comes. The image of people beating swords into plowshares—taking instruments used to kill people and changing them into instruments which help grow food to feed people—is a powerful one. Your challenge in this first week of Advent is to spend some time reflecting on how you are peacemakers (as a family and as individuals). Do you bring people together by your words and actions or do you create conflict? Then decide on one action you can take to make the world a more peace-filled place. Do you want to pray for peace in our world, our country, and our families? Do you want to write to government leaders to advocate for a more peaceful approach to a particular issue? Do you want to take a stand for more gun control? How do you want to bring peace? <https://pastoral.center>

## Connecting the Gospel ...

... **to the First Reading:** Isaiah describes the day when all nations will “climb the Lord’s mountain.” “Mountain” is a metaphor for God’s Presence. Our Advent journey, as in the days of old, is to climb the mountain of the Lord, to come to God.

... **to experience:** Advent itself is a metaphor for Christian living. As Advent is a progression toward celebration of the Nativity, so is our daily life a journey toward the fullness of Life to come. We need only to “stay awake.” [liturgy.slu.edu](http://liturgy.slu.edu)



## Our Need To Change

*This is the one [John the Baptist] of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:3)*

**Adults:** What do you need to change so that others can learn from watching you that Christ walks among us?

**Kids:** What could you do so that others will see in you what it means to follow Jesus? <https://pastoral.center>

## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** Why are Isaiah and John the Baptist so prominent in Advent’s Sunday readings?

(Answer on last page.)

**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING!** Interested in becoming an altar server? There will be training on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-Noon at Sacred Heart Cathedral. If you have made your First Communion – you are eligible to serve, male or female, child, or adult. If you have questions, please contact Mary Pat Boger at [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org) and she will forward the information to Elizabeth Crail.



*Thank you for helping at 5:30pm Sunday Mass!*

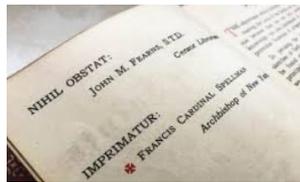
## Catholic Answers

### Question:

What are the origins and uses of the nihil obstat?

### Answer:

Censorship—i.e., oversight or regulation of religious content—predates Christianity and includes our Jewish ancestors in Old Covenant times, as [The Catholic Encyclopedia](#) reports. In addition, we see in St. Paul's time that a number of people involved in the occult burned their *own* books publicly after witnessing the misguided nature of their practices and the genuine, redeeming power of the gospel (Acts 19:19).



At the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325), not only do the Council Fathers condemn Arius's misguided beliefs about Jesus, they also condemned his related book, *Thalia*.

In 1564, proceeding from a directive the Council of Trent, the Church issued a series of rules on the oversight or censorship of books, including potential canonical penalties for those who publish books with religious content without gaining prior Church approbation. This built on a bull issued by Pope Leo X in 1515.

More recently, Pope Leo XIII issued various guidelines in his 1897 bull *Officiorum ac Munerum*. Pope St. Pius X, in his encyclical *Pascendi Dominici Gregis*, directed all bishops to have qualified theologians review the contents of submitted books with a *nihil obstat* ("nothing obstructs") provided to those favorably reviewed, along with the reviewing theologian's name, and then the *imprimatur* ("let it be printed") by the local bishop.

Today, according to canon law, you will sometimes see Church approval given via the simple edict "Printed with ecclesiastical permission" with the name of the approving bishop below and the date he provided his approbation. It's the same Church approval as an imprimatur, but the name of the *censor librorum* ("censor of books") who provides the theological review and his *nihil obstat* are not formerly noted in the book per traditional canonical custom.

[www.Catholic.com](http://www.Catholic.com)

### Blessing of the Advent Wreath:

**Adult:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All:** Who made heaven and earth.

**Adult:** Let us pray. O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of

Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*Holy water is then sprinkled on the wreath.*



## (Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment WATERSHED MOMENTS



In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one). The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So, look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting .

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – November 26, 2025©Lpi.





**November 23:** \$ 1,113.00  
**Actual Collection YTD**  
 7/25-6/26: \$ 33,583.63  
 Parishioner Count: 109

**Thank you for your generous contributions!**

In November, a national collection is taken up to help the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.S. (AMS) accomplish its mission of “Serving those who Serve.” 3% or our November collection will be given for this collection. Over the years St. Mark has been covered by our military priests. Visit WeShare for online giving at: <http://www.stmarksuaaf.org>.

**Stewards Readiness**

**“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” MATTHEW 24:42**

Stewards who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God’s active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

**NOVEMBER 2025 PRAYER INTENTION**



**For the prevention of suicide.** Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

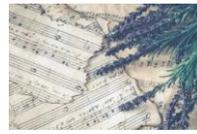
During Advent pray for family members who have fallen away from their faith that they may find their way back. Pray that we may slow down and listen to God’s voice as we begin the Advent journey. Pray for our elderly and all who are sick. All who live in areas of unrest. Finally, we pray for loved ones who have died.

**First Sunday of Advent – November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” (Matthew 24:42)**

God calls us to be vigilant, ready to respond to His invitation. Could He be stirring your heart toward priesthood or consecrated life, to serve His Church with unwavering dedication? Stay awake to His call through prayer. Talk to a priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907-374-9504 or email: [rfath@cbna.org](mailto: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](mailto:vac@cbna.org). For more information access the Diocese Safe Environment site at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/report-abu>



**St. Mark’s Choir is providing the music for the 7:30pm Christmas Eve Mass.** If you would like join in singing with the choir please contact George

Stefan or Edward Yew after 5:30pm Mass or email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org) with your name and contact information and we keep you up to date on planning and practices.

**From Sacred Heart Cathedral:**

**Poinsettias for Christmas:** the Cathedral decorates the church every year with these flowers. If you’d like to help by donating one in honor of a loved one you would like to remember during the Christmas Season, you’ll find a flyer and envelopes on the credenza between the two offices at SHC. When filling out the envelope, don’t forget to put the loved one’s name on it. (The standard donation is \$20, but any amount is appreciated). Help brighten the church for Christmas!



**Annual Hospitality Christmas Bake Sale:** Back again to help with the holidays – get your wallet ready because there will be a bake sale the first weekend of December after all the Masse at SHC. There may also be some handmade crafts for purchase. Help the Hospitality Committee make this a success!

**THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT: NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**Candle Name:** The Prophecy Candle

**The First Week of Advent Represents:** Hope

**Candle Color:** Purple



Each of the four candles represent an aspect of preparation during Advent. Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus’ coming with hope and anticipation. Are you ready to discover the hope Jesus is inviting you to experience this Advent?

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Answer:** These two prophets preached about the Jewish Messiah’s coming and about the Kingdom of God He would establish.

[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

WHAT GREATER CAUSE  
 IS THERE OF THE LORD’S COMING  
 THAN TO SHOW GOD’S LOVE FOR US?  
 IF WE HAVE BEEN SLOW TO LOVE,  
 AT LEAST LET US HASTEN  
 TO LOVE IN RETURN.  
 •ST AUGUSTINE

