



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@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

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

12/7: 2nd Sunday in Advent

12/7: Annual Hospitality Holiday Bake Sale held after all weekend masses at SHC. *Please help support their work!*

12/8: Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

12/10: SHC/ICC Advent Communal Penance Service

6pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral

12/10: "Peace in the Womb-Christmas Caroling" Pro-life

event in front of Planned Parenthood - 1-2pm & 4-5pm

12/12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at SHC – 6PM

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

Catholic Definition: HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

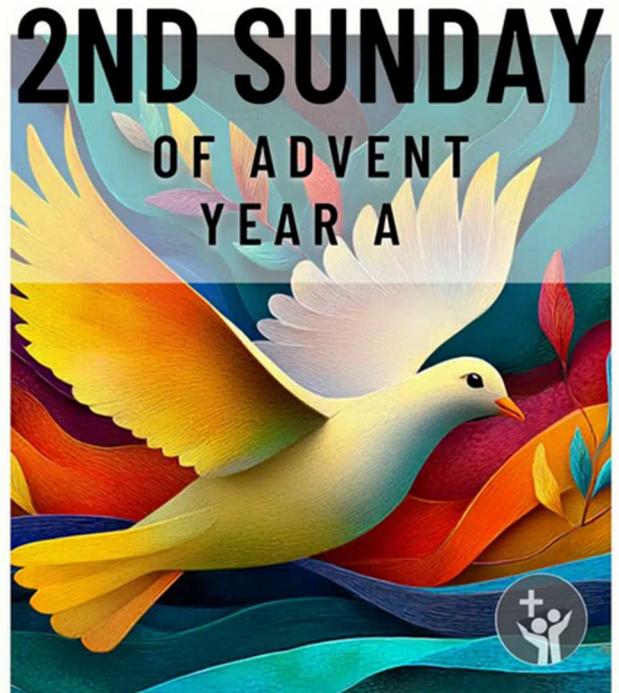
Feast days to be observed by attendance at Mass and rest, as far as possible, from unnecessary servile work. The number and dates of these vary among countries. In the United States there are six holy days: Solemnity of Mary on January 1; Ascension of Our Lord, forty days after Easter; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, August 15; All Saints' Day, November 1; Mary's Immaculate Conception, December 8; and Christmas, or the birth of Christ, December 25. On holy days, the pastor of every parish is required to offer or have offered a special Mass for his parishioners. <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

Things to bring with you to Catholic Mass:

4. One thing that you are thankful for this week.

2nd Sunday of Advent, Cycle A

DECEMBER 7, 2025



First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A descendent of Jesse will usher in a time of peace.

Responsorial: Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

The Messiah will bring justice and peace to the nations.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the salvation found in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.



ADVENT

Music of the Mass – December 7

59 - Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

56 - Wake, O Wake and Sleep No Longer

42 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

52 - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

73 - The Advent of Our King

*Mass of Creation #867-871

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. It does NOT take place of the weekend Mass, nor does the Sunday Obligation take the place of the Holy Day. You can fulfill your **Immaculate Conception Mass** obligation at **Sacred Heart Cathedral on Monday at 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM or 6 PM Masses.**



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 (at SHC): December 14th @ 6:30pm.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st Monday of the month. January book *He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith* by Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J. c.1973. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: 43janetf@gmail.com

Diocesan Bible Study: Will be meeting twice the week of Dec. 15th & 18th. Study Matthew at 6:30 pm 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: Every Tuesday at 7:00pm at SHC

Young Adult Feast and Faith: Tuesday, December 16th @ 5:30pm. Meet at Miguel's Restaurant.

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.

SHC Confessions & Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament 3-4pm

Diocesan Movie Night – 7 PM **December 13th** at Immaculate Conception Church. **It's a Wonderful Life.** *Start time change due to Women's Retreat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Women's Retreat –Saturday, Dec 13th 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.

First Communion & Confirmation: SHC classes are offered during the school year. For more info contact 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

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: The first reading of the Second Sunday of Advent is from the prophet Isaiah. It includes these words: “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together... There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy land; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord...” (Isaiah 11:1-10). Isaiah portrays a powerful image of cooperation and peace in this reading. Your challenge this week is to go to the Catholic Relief Services website, read a real-life story of people helping people, research the work which CRS is doing to bring peace and justice to our world, and choose one action you can take as a family or household to support the work of this great organization (www.crs.org/peacebuilding). <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel ...

... to the First Reading: During Advent the readings from Isaiah are prophecies of the Messiah. Thus, the “sprout from the stump of Jesse” is the Christ. The “spirit of the Lord” that rested upon Jesus bringing him wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and fear of the Lord is the same Spirit we are given at baptism bringing us the same gifts enabling us to be faithful and fruitful.



... to experience: The misuse of fire, arson, is considered a very heinous crime because it destroys more than property; it is an invasion of personal space. In this gospel John refers to fire as a destructive force but also as a gift that brings personal worth—new Life. liturgy.slu.edu

Putting On The Light of Christ

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:12b)

Adults: What will you do during Advent so that others can see that you have put on the light of Jesus Christ?

Kids: What will you do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in you? <https://pastoral.center>

THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT: Dec. 7th

Candle Name: The Bethlehem Candle

The Second Week of Advent Represents: Peace and Preparation

Candle Color: Purple

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and focus on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What has your journey toward Christmas been like so far?

www.dynamiccatholic.com



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: The word Bethlehem is an ancient Hebrew name that translates to what?

(Answer on last page.)

Catholic Answers

Question:

Is it a Catholic's responsibility to reconcile with those they have sinned against? Or just God in the sacrament of CONFESSION?



Answer:

When you've sinned against another person, you need to make some attempt to let them know you're sorry and ask their forgiveness. Here we speak of "the satisfaction" a penitent must make ([CCC 1459-1460](#)).

Given the circumstances, the offended person may not want to talk with you in person. So, if you can't repent in person, you can opt for a phone call, letter, email, or text in humbly letting a person know how sorry you are and that you ask their forgiveness. If there's a matter of financial restitution too, you can begin to address that. You may also seek a mutual friend to help foster reconciliation.

In any event, seeking reconciliation with a person against whom we have sinned is part of the process of repentance. Perhaps the person isn't ready to reconcile. However, if you've expressed your contrition to that person, you can move forward knowing you've done the right thing and have planted a seed for the eventual restoration of your friendship/relationship.

In addition, as you noted, you should also confess this sin in Confession. Depending on what took place, it could be a venial sin, or it could be a mortal sin. Just give your priest confessor the basic details and receive God merciful absolution (see Jn.14:27). And then strive to avoid such sin in the future.

For more on this issue, see [CCC 1450-1470](#). www.Catholic.com



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Monday, December 8th

There are four things about the Blessed Mother, all of which cast light on the *Lord Jesus, Her Divine Son*.

1. The perpetual virginity of Our Blessed Lady. This informs and reminds us that this Child is God's absolute initiative generated by the Holy Spirit.
2. Our Lady is the Mother of God. This clarifies that the Lord Jesus has two natures, human and divine, united in one person. Thus, the Blessed Virgin is not only the Mother of Jesus' human nature, but the Mother of both natures of Jesus – rightly called Mother of God.
3. Our Lady was conceived without sin – the Immaculate Conception. It is not that Our Lady had original sin and that original sin was removed – no – Our Lady at her conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne was never touched by original sin. Thus, the Lord Jesus, in Our Lady's womb for nine months, was never touched nor tainted by original sin. Our Lady was a vessel of grace through which the Word takes flesh and is born into the world.
4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven. When her earthly life came to an end Our Lady was taken, body and soul, into the eternal glory of heaven. Our Lady's entry into heaven, as well as our hope of entry into heaven, was done by the life-giving death and glorious resurrection of her Divine Son.

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
CULTURALLY CATHOLIC



In this Sunday's Gospel reading, we learn about John the Baptist preaching and baptizing people in the desert. He encounters Pharisees and Sadducees and warns them to produce "good fruit." [Find the daily reading here.](#)

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember, especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – December 4, 2025©Lpi.

Before going to confession,
it is good to ask God for the good will to be holy.



November 30: \$ 1,001.00
Actual Collection YTD
 7/25-6/26: \$ 34,584.63
 Parishioner Count: 103

Thank you for your generous contributions!

Our November collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services came to \$ 174.33. December special collection will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Visit WeShare for online giving at: <http://www.stmarksuaf.org>.

Fruitful Stewardship

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer, or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church, or do you buy more things that go unused? Our Stewardship time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

DECEMBER 2025 PRAYER INTENTION



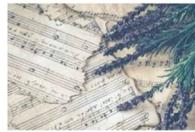
For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

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 during our journey through Advent; the elderly, those who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, sick, or lonely. Pray for those who have died –Thaddeus Williamson (SHC) who worked at UAF Facilities Services Safety.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 1

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2) John's call to prepare for Christ echoes in every family. In holy matrimony, love and faith creates the foundation where God's kingdom flourishes. Is God calling you to build a holy family? Ask Him to show you His way by praying for your (future) spouse and children.

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>



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 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 Masses at SHC. There may also be some handmade crafts for purchase. Help the Hospitality Committee make this a success!

THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT: DEC. 7th

Candle Name: The Bethlehem Candle
The First Week of Advent Represents: Peace
Candle Color: Purple



The second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on

Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace. As we read in the quote from Pope Francis, this light of peace shone forth from Bethlehem for all the world. <https://hallow.com/advent/>

The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks are celebrating 12 Days of Christmas Gratitude.

Today, and every day, we are grateful for our Diocese.

Thank you for your prayers, sharing your time and talents with our students and staff, and your supports of our schools.



Wishing you peace this second week of Advent

From the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks and Monroe Foundation

Join us for Mass this week!
 Monday, December 8
 8:15 am

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: "House of bread"

www.catholicculture.org