



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 also provides reliable information for non-Catholics inquiring about our faith and contributes to inter-faith discussion and ecumenical action

PASTOR

Fr. Ross Tozzi: rozzi@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

4th Sunday of Advent, Cycle A December 21, 2025



First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Responsorial: *Psalm 24:1-2,3-4,5-6*

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

St. Mark Sunday Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass: 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral

Holiday Masses are celebrated with Sacred Heart Cathedral – please check their schedules at sacredheartak.org.

CSA Weekday Mass: Resumes week of January 13th.

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

Reconciliation: Saturday at 3pm at SHC or contact priest before 5:30pm Mass

CALENDAR of EVENTS

12/24 & 25: Christmas Eve & Day Masses

12/24-1/2: *The Chancery will be closed in observance of Christmas and the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

12/21: 6 PM Mary, Mother of God Mass at SHC

1/1/26: 11 AM Mass - Mary, Mother of God Mass at SHC

Catholic Definition: CHRISTMAS

Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. In the early Church the feast was celebrated along with the Epiphany. But already in A.D. 200 St. Clement of Alexandria (150-215) refers to a special feast on May 20, and the Latin Church began observing it on December 25. The privilege of priests offering three Masses on Christmas Day goes back to a custom originally practiced by a pope who, about the fourth century, celebrated a midnight Mass in the Liberian Basilica (where traditionally the manger of Bethlehem is preserved), a second in the Church of St. Anastasia, whose feast falls on December 25, and a third at the Vatican Basilica. Many of the present customs in various countries are traceable to the Church's Christianizing the pagan celebrations associated with the beginning of winter and the new year. (Etym. Anglo-Saxon *Cristes Maesse*, Christ's Mass.) <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

Things to bring with you to Catholic Mass:

6. An attitude of heart and mind to join your fellow believers in praying the Mass prayers and singing.

Music of the Mass – December 21

59 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

47 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

39 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

51 Waiting in Silence

42 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Mass of Creation #867-871*

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULES

Christmas Eve: 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM

Midnight Mass: 12:00 AM

Christmas Day: 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM Spanish



Mary, Mother of God

December 31: 6:00 PM

January 1: 11:00 AM

*** There will be NO Christmas Day St. Mark Mass.*



*****Activities are on break until January 2026*****

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.* servidoras@cbna.org

Young Adult Game Night (at SHC): Jan Date T.B.A.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st Monday of the month. 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

Diocesan Bible Study: Study Matthew at 6:30 pm will continue in the Mary Chapel of SHC in January 2026.

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. pbang@cbna.org

Young Adult Feast and Faith: Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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; First Thursday of the month 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Voces Verbi Teens: 6-7:30pm (ages 13-17). servidoras@cbna.org

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 – Next month's movie date & title TBA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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: We celebrate the Incarnation on Thursday—God taking on human flesh and becoming one of us. This is the ultimate act of solidarity. Jesus embraced humanity in all of its joy and in all of its suffering. He truly became “one of us.” We are called to be one with each other as Jesus is one with us. Your challenge during this final (short) week of Advent is to ask yourself which part of God’s community you are disconnected from. With whom does God want you to stand in solidarity—locally or globally? Say a prayer every night this week for this person or group of persons.

<https://pastoral.center>

Focusing the Gospel

Key words and phrases: the works of the Christ, Are you the one who is to come, what you ... see

To the point: The Gospel begins with John questioning who Jesus is and concludes with Jesus extolling who John is. What makes John great is that he recognizes in “the works of the Christ” the person and presence of the Messiah— “the one who is to come.” This is exactly our Advent challenge: to see in the goodness around us the works of Jesus and the presence of “the Christ.” Advent calls us to look deeper and then to trust what we see. Whom we discover depends upon what we see. www.liturgy.slu.edu



Welcoming Light

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)

Adult Question: Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?

Child Question: What could you do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?

<https://pastoral.center>

On behalf of St. Mark Parish ~ We extend a warm welcome to those traveling—visiting families and friends—and to our parishioners and their guests staying here in Fairbanks, closer to home. May God’s peace and blessings always be with you! We hope that our prayers during this season will bring comfort to those who lost loved ones this past year as they will be dearly missed during the traditional holiday season. Have a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!



Feel free to contact us if you wish to help in any of our ministries or have questions regarding our parish at St. Mark’s Office 907-374-9564 or stmark@cbna.org

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the connection between the manger and the Eucharist?

(Answer on last page.)

Catholic Answers

Question:

When was Jesus born? Why do we celebrate Jesus' birth on December 25?



Answer:

The first Christians were not concerned with the date of Christ's birth nor with celebrating it. Origen (d. 255), Irenaeus (d. 202), and Tertullian (d. 220) do not include Christmas or its date on their lists of feasts and celebrations.

The earliest attempts to date the birth of Christ produced various results:

- Circa 200, Clement of Alexandria noted that Christians in Egypt believed Jesus was born on May 20.
- *De paschæ computus*, written in 243, notes that some groups of Christians celebrated the feast of Christ's birth on March 28 and others on April 19/20.
- The writings of Theophilus (d.181) and Hippolytus (d. 240) mention that Christ was born on December 25.
- Fourth- and fifth-century writings mention December 25 as an ancient and widespread feast of Christ's birth.
- Many ancient writings, especially in the East, place the celebration on January 6 but usually combined with what we now celebrate separately with the Epiphany.

The Church chose December 25 due to its ancient origin and widespread acceptance. No other date was accepted by more Christians for a longer or older period of time. However, we should note that although the Church chooses this date to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, it is not declaring *de fide* that it is the literal date he was born.

As we do not know the exact date of Christ's birth, the date of December 25 for Christmas may have been arbitrary. The Church could have chosen another date on which to celebrate the birth of Christ. One reason December 25 may have been deemed suitable is its proximity to the winter solstice. After that date, the days start to become longer, and thus it is at the beginning of a season of light entering the world (cf. John 1:5). The summer solstice—after which the days start to get shorter—falls near June 24, on which the Church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist, who declared of Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). www.Catholic.com

"And in the end, everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child, and Love." – St. (Pope) John Paul II

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment
ST. JOSEPH THE STEWARD



St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example. –Tracy Earl Welliver MTS– 2022©Lpi

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT: DEC. 21st

Candle Name: The Angel's Candle

The Third Week of Advent Represents:
LOVE

Candle Color: Violet

Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "**Angel's Candle**," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color **purple**, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth. This Advent, light the fourth candle on **Sunday, December 22nd**. <https://hallow.com/advent/>



"HOW HAPPY IS THAT GUARDIAN ANGEL
WHO ACCOMPANIES A SOUL TO HOLY MASS!"
- CURÉ D'ARS, ST. JOHN MARIE VIANNEY



December 14: \$ 1,394.00
 Total Sunday Collection for
 fiscal year 7/1/25-6/31/36
 \$34,911.63

Thank you for your prayers and generous contributions!

We are deeply grateful to all who have supported St. Mark throughout the past year through time, your talents, and your financial gifts. Your faithfulness makes a meaningful difference in the life of our parish. *Parish SOFT Giving* is the new *WeShare*, a safe, and convenient way to support our parish through one-time or recurring donations using your computer, tablet, or mobile device.

Key Benefits: User-friendly and accessible, set up recurring or one-time gifts, secure, encrypted transactions. Track your giving history at any time. You will find the link at: <http://www.stmarksuaf.org/donations/>

2025 Donations – The accounting system in the Parish Office will not allow us to post donations received after December 31, 2025, to your 2025 contributions. If you would like your contributions to be credited to 2025, they MUST be received by December 31, 2025. **2025 Tax Statements** will be available before the end of January. Please make sure your address is up to date with the Parish Office.

Stewards Obey

“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”
MATTHEW 1:24

Stewards put our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.
www.camdendiocese.org



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.

Pray for the elderly, hospitalized, residents of nursing home facilities, sick, lonely, or incarcerated – may this bring them comfort and some joy during Christmas. Pray for those who have died and gone before us this past year..

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://diocesoeffairbanks.org/report-abu>

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE ARE GIVING THANKS HERE AT THE MONROE FOUNDATION!

Check out catholic-schools.org/gratitude, follow us on FB, or subscribe to our newsletter to join us on our 12 Days of Christmas Gratitude journey!
 What are we grateful for today?

Check us out!



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
Gratitude



Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21

“They shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” (Matthew 1:23)

Mary’s trust in God’s plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Diocese of Fairbanks Vocation Office: vocations@cbna.org

All married couples are invited to the Diocesan Married Couple’s Retreat next month! The retreat will be led by Craig and Amy Dyke, who have been working in family life ministry for over twenty years! The retreat will be held on Saturday, January 24th at Monroe Catholic High School from 9am to 5:30pm. There will be a retreat fee of \$20 per couple, which covers breakfast and lunch. Childcare will be provided for children ages 4-11!

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

George Stefan will be leading the 7 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Thérèse & Edward Yew will be leading the Midnight Mass. *Share your gifts at Christmas time and in the mass you will be attending!* Contact St. Mark’s Office at stmark@cbna.org with your name and contact information and we will keep you up to date on planning and practices. Midnite Mass practice will be held on Dec. 16 & 18 (Tue/Thu) at 7 PM in SHC Church.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: The manger, which is a feeding trough, foreshadows Jesus as the “Bread of Life,” who feeds humanity in the Eucharist with his Body and Blood .

www.dio.org/catholic-times

