



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: 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

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

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

12/31: Feast of Mary, Mother of God - 6 PM Mass at SHC

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

1/4/26: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

1/5/26: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless our family.
May we always have God at the center
of our hearts and homes.

Catholic Definition: RESOLUTION

The firm determination to carry into effect what a person has decided should be done. It includes some decision to use the means for putting resolution into practice. In spiritual theology a resolution implies a conversion of one's moral life, arrived at after due reflection and prayer.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/>

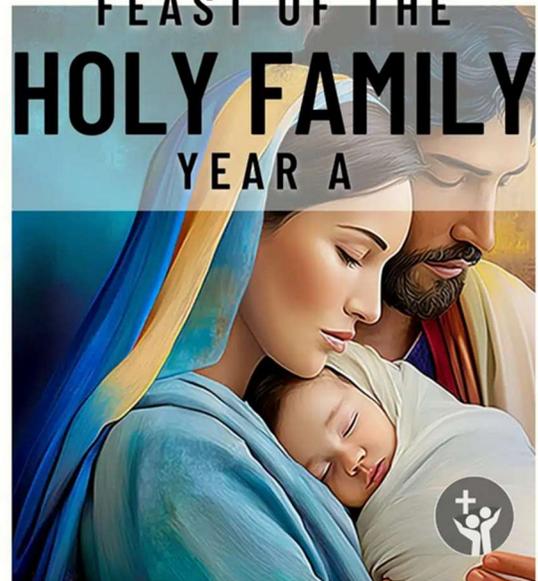
Things to bring with you to Catholic Mass:

7) A decision to actively listen for God's "small still voice" that will make itself known in the prayers, the hymns, the readings, or the homily and to welcome and ponder what "word" Jesus will give you.

Check out [National Catholic Register](http://NationalCatholicRegister.com) for New Year's resolution guidance in strengthening your faith practices!

December 28, 2025

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY YEAR A



First Reading: *Sirach 3:2-7,12-14*

Honor to one's parents will be rewarded.

Responsorial: *Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5*

Happy are those who follow the Lord's ways.

Second Reading: *Colossians 3:12-21*

Do all things in the name of Jesus and give thanks to God.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:13-15,19-23*

In a dream, God tells Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from King Herod.

The Year of Hope



STRIVE EAGERLY FOR THE GREATEST SPIRITUAL GIFTS
1 CORINTHIANS 12:31

HOLY FAMILY CLOSING MASS
JUBILEE YEAR 2025

11AM DECEMBER 28TH
SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

For more information on the Year of Hope scan the QR code or go to the Diocesan website!



HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

As we begin our New Year, establish New Year's resolutions that will rededicate your life to the Lord. Make each day a new beginning that will bless you, your family, and those around you!



SUNDAY

Religious Education (SHC): 9:30-10:30 AM downstairs in the classrooms. Questions—contact Mother, Way of Salvation at: servidoras@cbna.org Families of St. Mark are encouraged to attend SHC or ICC religious instruction.

Young Adult Game Night (at SHC): Jan 11th @ 6:30PM – SHC.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st Monday of the Month – Jan 5th *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: Study Matthew at 6:30 pm will continue in the Mary Chapel of SHC January 5th.

TUESDAY

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

Faith Formation (OCIA): 7 PM every Tuesday at SHC. Email Fr. Peter Bang at: 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. There will be no 1st Thursday of the Month Adoration in Jan.

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 – Jan. 10th, 7 PM @ ICC

Married Couples Retreat – Jan 24th at Monroe Catholic High School from 9 AM – 5:30PM.

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: The first week of January is National Migration Week. Mary and Joseph and Jesus were refugees when they fled to Egypt to escape the persecution by Herod. They know what it is like to be strangers in another land. Your challenge this week is to honor those who migrate by educating yourself on the reality and reasons for migration. Go to the United States Bishops' website

(<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/>) and learn about migration through the lens of faith. Then choose one concrete action recommended on the Bishops' website which you can do to stand with refugees in today's world. Or, if you have migrants or refugees in your own community, determine one thing you as a family can do to support them. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel...

... to the First and Second Readings: What does it mean to be holy? The [First Reading](#) suggests concrete behaviors that a holy family exhibits: honoring, respecting, obeying one's parents. [Paul](#) also suggests behaviors for the holy family of the church: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness.

... to experience: Holiness is not a goody-goody, otherworldly mode of living. Rather, it is a realistic engagement in life—in the difficulties, struggles, and tensions of human life and relating—that always reflects fidelity to God's will.

www.liturgy.slu.edu



Welcoming Light

Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. (Luke 2:51a)

Adult Question: What does your family do to honor and respect its older members?

Child Question: Why did Joseph leave Israel? How can he be an example to you?

<https://pastoral.center>

Feast of the Holy Family – December 28

“Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel.” (Matthew 2:20)

Joseph's obedience to God protected the Holy Family. In marriage, spouses are called to protect and nurture each other in faith. Reflect on how God might be guiding you to build a family rooted in His love. Pray and ask God how you can better serve and protect your family this week.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

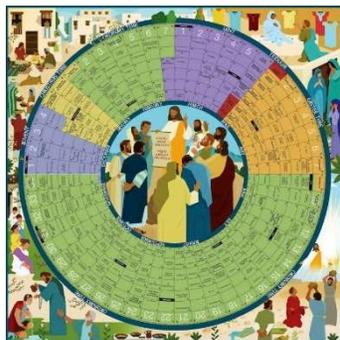
Question: Feast of the Holy Family is a moveable feast. What Feast is a fixed date on December 28th? (Answer on last page.)

GOD HAS TO HAVE TWO PICTURES OF US:
ONE IS WHAT WE ARE AND THE OTHER IS WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE.
—venerable ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN

Catholic Answers

Question:

What is the difference between a memorial and a feast on the Church calendar? The key says solemnities, feast days, and memorials are capitalized. How do you know which are feasts and which are memorials and what is the difference?



Answer:

A solemnity is the highest rank of celebration and is identified in the calendar with an S. Easter, Christmas, All Saints Day, the Ascension, Corpus Christi, and other celebrations of events in our Lord's life on earth and certain saints are solemnities. The Gloria and Creed are always said on such days. Solemnities are like Sundays, though most of them are not days of obligation.

Feasts are the next rank down and are identified with an F. They consist of the celebration of certain saints like the feast of the Archangels or most of the Apostles. The Gloria is required on these days, but not the Creed.

Memorials are the lowest rank and are simply the celebrations of most of the saints. The Gloria is not said on these days. Obligatory memorials, identified with a capital M, must be observed. Optional memorials, identified with an m, may be observed but such observation is not required. www.Catholic.com

(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment
THE GIFT OF FAMILY



What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people".

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

–Tracy Earl Welliver MTS– 2020©Lpi

The first nine days of January fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas which is represented by the liturgical color white – the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity, and innocence (absolute or restored).



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!

Location | Chena Camp
Cost | \$200

THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

SPRING DATES
FEB 19-22 (MEN)
FEB 26-MAR 1 (WOMEN)
MAR 5-8 (MEN SPANISH)

SIGN UP AT
iccfairbanks.org/se

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

thank you

As we end the calendar year, we would like to thank you for your prayers, time, and financial support that help us fulfill our mission of supporting students in the Catholic Community at UAF in their faith journey while attending school, as well as the needs of our parishioners. God Bless All!

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.

Thankful Stewardship

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” COLOSSIANS 3:17

Giving thanks to God and using our words and actions to give all glory to God is the foundation of living a Stewardship lifestyle. We were made in God’s image and likeness; gratitude and generosity are in our DNA. As beloved sons and daughters of God, we are all part of God’s family. Using our gifts to help others is our gift back to God and helps grow the Body of Christ here on earth and establishes a pathway to Heaven for each of us.

www.camdendiocese.org



JANUARY 2026 PRAYER INTENTION.

For prayer with the word of God.

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Remember families, especially those who are vulnerable or threatened; facing health problems; and those in areas of conflict. May the new year bring peace and strength to all. Remember all who have passed this past year.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: Feast of the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28th). The Feast of the Holy Family is moveable, always the 1st Sunday after Christmas. www.dio.org/catholic-times

Neighboring Parish Mass Times

Sacred Heart Cathedral

(907) 474-9032

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Spanish Mass at 1:00 PM

St. Mark Mass at SHC 5:30 PM

*Weekday: Mon-Fri: 7:30 AM

Saturday 9:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Immaculate Conception

(907) 452-3533

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Latin Rite Mass 6 PM – TBA

Sunday: 7:30 & 9:30 AM, 12:00 PM)

*Weekday: Mon – 8:30 AM

T- Fri: 12:10 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Half hour before every Mass (except Mondays).

6-7 PM Wed. & 3-:3:45 PM on Saturdays

Saint Raphael

(907) 457-6603

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM

*Weekday: Tue, Th: 9:30 AM,

Wed 5:30 PM/Fri: 6:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sat: 5:00 – 5:30 PM

Saint Nicholas, North Pole

(907) 488-2595

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 & 12:00 PM

*Weekdays: Mon, T, Th, Fri: 9:00 AM, Wed 7 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wed: 6:00 PM & Sat: 4:00 PM

Ft. Wainwright Southern Lights Chapel

Sunday: 9:00 AM

*Weekday – Wed 7 PM

Eielson Air Force Base Chapel

Sunday 10:30 AM

The Year of Hope



Holy Family

We return to where we began, the Solemnity of the Holy Family! The Holy Family is the model of Hope. Mary the most intimate form of perseverance as Jesus grew in her womb, Joseph in Hope believed in the message of the angel and took Mary into his home, and Jesus, the literal embodiment of our Hope, shows up in the innocence of a child, to remind us that “unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” God’s blessings on you and your family as we end this wonderful Jubilee Year of Hope!



For more information on the Year of Hope visit the USCCB site or go to the diocese website at <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/year-of-hope>

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>



The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, celebrated on Jan 3rd.

“The name of Jesus is a name of joy! When the memory of our sins weighs us down, this name brings back joy. This mighty name reminds us that the Son of God became man to be our Savior.” ~ St. Alphonsus Liguori