



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.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 4, 2026



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

1/18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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:

- 8) An attentive ear that will listen for a mission that you will take with you into the world.

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

First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial: *Psalms 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13*

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6*

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Music of the Mass – January 4, 2026



112 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

115 The First Nowell

117 We Three Kings

116 What Star is This

113 As with Gladness Men of Old

**Mass of Creation* #867-871

Welcome Fr. Ross Tozzi back from Kaltag where he helped celebrate Christmas at Saint Teresa Catholic Church!

Fr. Marlow A. Rosales, OFM arrived in Fairbanks from the Philippines in time to celebrate Mass with St. Mark University Parish December 28th. He comes from the Philippines to join Fr. Think in the Interior Region for ministry. Please pray for his safe transition to the cold weather Fairbanks is having!



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 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 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: This week we commemorate the Epiphany, the story of the wise men from the east paying homage and bringing gifts to the Infant Jesus. Their presence in the stable reveals that Jesus came for all people, not just the Jewish community. But the faith of the wise men was almost thwarted by Herod, who sought to destroy the baby he had heard was born. Your challenge this week is to reflect on how often you turn to violence—violent words, violent actions, violent feelings—when you feel threatened by someone. Make a personal commitment to respond to other people's anger or hate or meanness with nonviolence. Pledge to make love the underlying motive and foundation on which you resolve your conflicts. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel...

... to the Second Reading: The Second Reading makes explicit that Christ came for all peoples: the “Gentiles are coheirs” and “copartners in the promise” of Christ for salvation.

... to experience: Expectations shape our attitudes and actions more than we realize. If we expect failure, we will probably fail. If we expect happiness, we have a better chance of finding it. If we limit where and how we expect to encounter Christ, we will so many opportunities to find him.

www.liturgy.slu.edu



Overcoming Jealousy

Then Herod sent the [magi] to Bethlehem, saying,

"Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." (Matthew 2:8)

Adult Question: When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

Child Question: When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?

<https://pastoral.center>



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: How many Wise Men (Magi) visited Joseph, Jesus, and Mary in Bethlehem?
(Answer on last page.)

Catholic Answers

Question:

Why give Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh?

Answer:

In giving the infant Jesus gold and frankincense, the Magi evoke Isaiah 60:3, 6 in which Gentile nations bring these gifts to the God of Israel (see also Tobit 13:11, Psalms 72:10-15). In addition, myrrh is an oil that was used to consecrate levitical priests and the wilderness tabernacle, the forerunner to the temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 30:23-33). Myrrh was also used as a burial ointment.



There are also the spiritual senses of Scripture (see the *Catechism* 115-19). In the allegorical or christological sense, St. Irenaeus says that the gifts signify the mystery of the Incarnate Word (God who has become man): gold, a symbol of royalty, represents his kingship; frankincense, used in worship, points to his divinity; and myrrh represents his humanity, particularly in his passion and death (*Against Heresies*, 3, 9, 2).

One could also argue that the myrrh signifies that Jesus is also a priest, in fact the definitive high priest who fulfills the Old Covenant levitical priesthood with his superior Melchizedekian New Covenant (see Heb. 5-7); it also indicates that he is the new Temple (see John 2:18-22).

In the moral sense, i.e., how we are to live, Pope St. Gregory the Great says in his *Homilies on the Gospels* (10) that the three items represent gifts that we are to present to God in our daily lives: gold is Christ's wisdom, which is to shine in our lives; frankincense is the prayer and adoration we are to give him (see Rev. 8:3-4); and myrrh is our daily self-sacrifices to the Lord (see Matt. 39; Rom. 12:1).

www.Catholic.com



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!

UAF Students return the week of January 11th. The Catholic Student Association (CSA) will resume mass & meetings when classes begin. Fairbanks Students in grades K-12 will return to classes this week: Jan 6th for Catholic Schools of Fairbanks and Jan 7th for Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools. *Please pray for students, families, and educators for a safe and successful start!*

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

THE STARS WE FOLLOW



In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Magi from the east arrive in Jerusalem to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, "I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough." Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking "the newborn king of the Jews," yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don't see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don't know how many of them there were. We don't know their religion. We don't know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So, tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – December 31, 2025 ©Lpi.

"How sweet the presence of Jesus to the longing, harassed soul! It is instant peace, and balm to every wound."

~ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Feast Day – January 4th.



The Spring Diocesan
Engaged Encounter Retreat
is scheduled for
6-8 February 2026

at St. Nicholas Parish in North Pole.

Couples discerning marriage and those preparing for a sacramental marriage can register online at <https://fairbanks.engagedencounter.com/>.

The registration deadline is 30 January 2026.

Couples can contact 907-388-3408 or fairbanks@engagedencounter.com for more information.



Thank you for your prayers and generous contributions! We will catch up on the Donation and parish count January 11th.

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.

Stewardship Gratitude

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” MATTHEW 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called in Stewardship to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

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 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: Nobody knows. *The tradition that there were three arises from the three gifts that were given to the Holy Family.*

<https://stmoside.org/epiphany-quiz-answers/>

Frankincense and Myrrh: both resins - dried tree sap - that comes from of the genus *Boswellia* (frankincense) and *Commiphora* (myrrh), common to Somalia and Ethiopia.

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

Daily Readings

4th Week of Advent, Cycle A

Monday – 1/5 - Memorial of St. John Neumann

1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-35

Tuesday – 1/6 - Tuesday after Epiphany

1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday – 1/7 - Wednesday after Epiphany

1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

Thursday – 1/8 - Thursday after Epiphany

1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22

Friday – 1/9 - Friday after Epiphany

1 John 5:51-13; Luke 5:12-16

Saturday – 1/10 - Saturday after Epiphany

1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

Sunday, January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings>

Saints of the Week

Jan 5: St. John Neumann

Jan 6: St. Andre Bessette

Jan 7: St. Raymond of Pennafort

Jan 8: St. Thorfinn

Jan 9: St. Adrian, Abbot

Jan 10: St. William of Bourges

Jan 11: St. Theodosius the Cenobiarch

Learn about their stories at:

<https://www..org/saints/sofd.php>



Chalking the door is a tradition at Epiphany that marks the threshold of our homes with a new year **blessing** welcoming visitors to visit and remind them of the importance of hospitality throughout the Scriptures.

The letters and numbers are the Epiphany story, 20+C+M+B+26. The 20 and 26 are of course the beginning and end of the year's date. The letters stand for the traditional names of the wise men (magi): Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. It also represents the initials of the Latin phrase "*Christus mansionem benedicat*" – "*Christ bless the house.*" *Go to usccb.org/prayers to find blessing.

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>