



# ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH

The Catholic Community of University of Alaska Fairbanks

1316 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709-5168

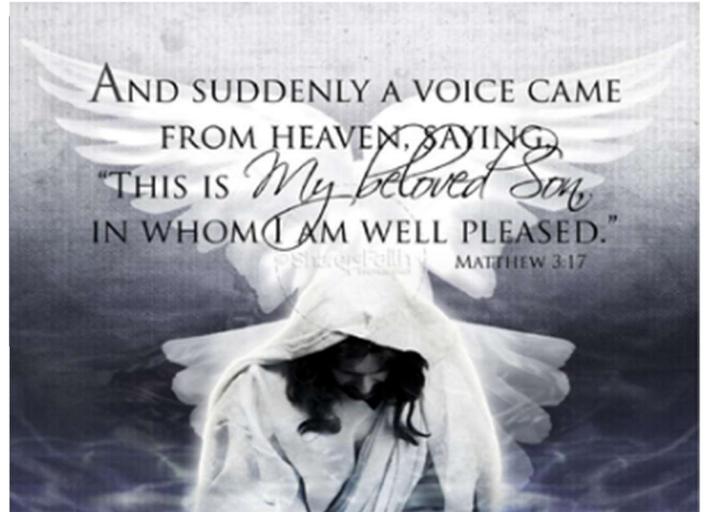
Email: [stmark@cbna.org](mailto:stmark@cbna.org) Webpage: <https://stmarksuaf.org>

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

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 11, 2026



### First Reading: *Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7*

The servant of the Lord shall bring justice to all.

### Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,9-10*

The Lord will give peace to the people.

### Second Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38*

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

### Gospel Reading: *Matthew 3:13-17*

The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is baptized by John.

### Music of the Mass – January 11, 2026

120 When Jesus Comes

209 Beautiful Savior

223 in His Temple Now Behold

313 All People That On Earth Do Dwell

573 Come, Christians Join To Sing

Mass Parts: *Mass of Creation #867-871*

### FROM THE OFFICE OF FAITH & FAMILY FORMATION

Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, is the beginning of the annual novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Please join Novena in preparation for the March for Life. Sign up to receive the daily prayers via email or text message!

<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

### 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@alasks.edu](mailto: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](http://sacredheartak.org).*

**CSA Weekday Mass:** Resumes week of January 13<sup>th</sup>.

*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

1/14: WYD Information Meeting at SHC – 5:30 PM

1/16: Beginning of 9 Days for Life Novena

1/16: Feast of Santo Nino Mass at SHC – 6 PM

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

### Catholic Definition: COMMITMENT

Pledging oneself by vow, promise, or simple resolution to the performance of some action or allegiance to a cause or co-operation with a person or group of persons. The obligation is morally binding, depending on the gravity of the commitment and the formality under which it is made. (Etym. Latin *committere*, to join, connect, entrust: *com-*, together + *mittere*, to send.) <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

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

9) Bring a friend to Mass.

**9 DAYS FOR LIFE**

**PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE!**

**JANUARY 16-24, 2026**



### SUNDAY

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

**Young Adult Game Night (at SHC):** Jan 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM – SHC.

### MONDAY

**SHC Book Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month – Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.

Contact Jan Fortune for info at: [43janetf@gmail.com](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Bible Study:** Study Matthew on Monday & Thursday at 6:30 pm will continue in the Mary Chapel of SHC.

### 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](mailto:pbang@cbna.org)

**Young Adult Feast and Faith:** Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month Adoration in Jan.

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

**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.

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

**Diocesan Movie Night** – Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM @ ICC

**Married Couples Retreat** – Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 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](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 the Baptism of the Lord has the Prophet Isaiah proclaiming that the Messiah “shall bring forth justice to the nations.” Jesus fulfilled that passage by being a person of

justice and teaching his disciples that all people deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity, including the poor, the sick and lame, the outcasts, and sinners. Your challenge this week is to find a way to say “yes” to your baptismal call, just as Jesus said yes to his. What is Jesus calling you to do to live out your baptism? What injustice in your family or community or world are you being called to combat? And what can you do to help end it?

<https://pastoral.center>

### Connecting the Gospel...

... **to the First Reading:** Isaiah speaks of a servant in whom God is pleased, upon whom God’s spirit rests, through whom God’s work of justice is brought to completion. This servant image is fulfilled in Jesus who is announced in the gospel as the “beloved Son.”

... **to experience:** The economy identifies us as consumers, and our purpose in life is to buy. The entertainment industry identifies us as spectators, and our role is to “tune in.” Baptism identifies us as God’s beloved children, and our calling is to remain faithful to our identity and act in accord with our new relationship with God.



[www.liturgy.slu.edu](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu)

### Pleasing to God

*“And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:2)*

**Adult Question:** Do you think that God was “well pleased” by your actions in recent weeks? Why?

**Child Question:** What good thing could you do this week that would be pleasing to God?

<https://pastoral.center>



“Parents are the first educators, not the only educators, of their children. It belongs to them, therefore, to exercise with responsibility their educational activity in close and vigilant cooperation with civil and ecclesial agencies.” (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Paragraph 240)

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** John is one of only three people whose birth is celebrated as a feast day in the Catholic Church. Who are the other two?

(Answer on last page.)

Catholic Answers

**Question:**

If Baptism is Necessary Why Does RCIA Take 2 Years?

**Answer:**

When someone joins a church or religion, they are saying that they truly believe all the things taught by that group. Faith touches on the ultimate reality of life and the universe. These are not topics to be taken lightly. Faith touches on every aspect of how we live our lives and the choices that we make. Before accepting such an all-encompassing change in life, the individual needs to be fully aware of the implications of the choice to embrace a particular faith.

The usual RCIA process takes one to two years to complete. In some extraordinary circumstances it can be expedited. The main concern of the RCIA team is to be sure that the individual is truly ready to make a commitment to Jesus and the Church. Faith is not something that we try out for a while and see if we like it. Faith is a total commitment of the heart, mind, and soul (Deut. 6:4-6; Matt. 22:36-37).

Your question also presumes that water baptism is the only form of baptism. Someone who is in the conversion process to become a Catholic who dies prior to water baptism receives the baptism of desire at the moment of death.

For *catechumens* who die before their Baptism, their explicit desire to receive it, together with repentance for their sins, and charity, assures them the salvation that they were not able to receive through the sacrament. (Catechism, 1259)

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



(Practicing) Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment  
WHEN JESUS WADES IN



Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person “born of women” — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, “Allow it for now.” John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

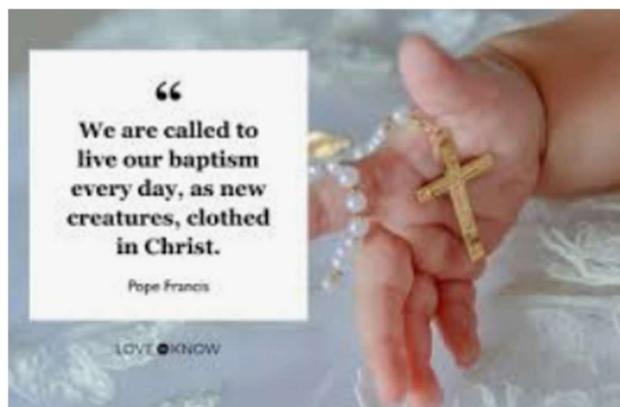
He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bid  
Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – January 8 2026©Lpi.



Stay connected with us for free!

Text 'SMDOF' to 84576 or connect with us online at [SACREDHEARTAK.FLOCKNOTE.COM/STMARKPARISH](http://SACREDHEARTAK.FLOCKNOTE.COM/STMARKPARISH)



**“The road runs out, but the Church continues”** ...An article in The Pillar about Bishop Steve and the widespread Diocese of Fairbanks can be found on the Diocesan Facebook page or the Catholic magazine – The Pillar. [www.pillaratholic.com](http://www.pillaratholic.com)



*“He who is reborn in baptism is a new man.”*

+St. Peter Damian, bishop (1840-1889 A.D.)



**Stewardship Report**  
 January 4: \$ 1,660.00  
 Actual Collection YTD  
 7/25- 6/26: \$ 39,507,63  
 Parishioner Count: 62

*Your financial support is a blessing. God Bless You!*

**2025 Tax Statements** will be available by the end of January. Please make sure your address is up to date with the Parish Office.

**Baptized Stewards**

*“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.camdenocese.org](http://www.camdenocese.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.*

**My Morning Offering**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Answer:** Jesus and Mary are the other two whose births are celebrated as feast days. The Church honors John because of his role in preparing the way for Christ as the last of the prophets.  
<https://aleteia.org/>

“Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind’s guilt upon His shoulders;  
 he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan.  
 He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners.”

– Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth*

# Married Couples Retreat

**Anchored in Hope**  
 Marriage and the Domestic Church



Led by Craig and Amy Dyke

JANUARY 24TH 9AM-5:30PM  
 MONROE CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
 CHILD CARE PROVIDED!



Visit <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/retreats> or scan the QR code to reserve a spot!



Office of Faith and Family Formation

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](mailto:fairbanks@engagedencounter.com) for more information.

**THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES**

Location | Chena Camp  
 Cost | \$200

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

SIGN UP AT [iccfairbanks.org/se](http://iccfairbanks.org/se)

**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>