



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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A January 18, 2026



First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

God's servant, Israel, will be made a light to the nations.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40:2,4,7-10

God desires obedience.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul greets the Church in Corinth.

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

John testifies that Jesus is the Lamb of God, God's own Son.

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

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

1/24: Married Couples Retreat at Monroe – 9AM-5:30PM

1/25: Young Adult Game Night – 6:30PM at SHC

2/6-8: Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat at St. Nicholas

2/18: Ash Wednesday

2/19-22: Men's Spiritual Exercise

2/22: Rite of Elections 4:00PM at SHC

Catholic Definition: LAMB

A symbol of Christ. Rendered in many forms as early as the fourth century. Various aspects show the animal balancing a staff by its right front leg, with a wound in its chest pouring blood into a chalice, representing Christ's Blood in the Passion; the staff bearing a flag signifying Christ's victory in the Resurrection; the lamb resting or standing on a closed book with its seven sealed streamers symbolizing Christ as the judge. The lamb is the emblem of docility; "harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly, he never opened his mouth like the lamb that is led to the slaughterhouse" (Isaiah 53:7). But the lamb triumphant is portrayed symbolically in the song ascribed to St. Ambrose, "Now at the Lamb's high royal feast," and St. John speaks of the wrath of the Lamb when the sixth seal is broken. As an emblem of St. John the Baptist, it is found in Chartres Cathedral on a banner that reads "Behold the Lamb of God," referring to Christ, "Who takes away the sins of the world." St. Agnes, the child virgin and martyr, is also symbolized by the lamb.

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

Music of the Mass – January 18, 2026



- 580 All the Ends of the Earth
- 524 I Heard the Voice of Jesus
- 390 Here I Am, Lord
- 547 Earthen Vessels
- 213 Praise to the Lord

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

1/25-31: CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

FROM THE OFFICE OF FAITH & FAMILY FORMATION



Friday, January 16th, 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 March for Life. Sign up to receive the daily prayers via email or text message! <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>



SUNDAY

Religious Education (SHC): 9:30-10:30 AM downstairs in the classrooms. Questions—contact Mother, Way of Salvation at: servidoras@cbna.org

Young Adult Game Night (at SHC): Rescheduled to January 25th @ 6:30PM – SHC.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st Monday of the Month – Next gathering **Feb 1st**. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: 43janetf@gmail.com
Book list can be found at sacredheartak.org/parish-groups.

Diocesan Bible Study: Study Matthew on Monday, Jan. 19th, 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

Young Adult Feast and Faith: 5:30pm January 20th with Fr. Aiden as our guest speaker talking about the reality of modern day persecution in the Church from his personal experience in Nigeria. Free meal included! Meets every 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 – Next showing TBA.

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>.

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 celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Francis de Sales (Jan. 24). Legend has it that Francis was so holy that his reputation spread across the land. He was once approached

by a stranger who asked him to share the secret of a holy life. Francis replied, “Would you please close the door more gently?” Francis wanted the stranger to understand that it is in the ordinary, day-to-day events and actions of our lives that we truly live good and faithful lives. Your challenge this week is to look at the little ways in which you tolerate or practice injustice. If someone tells a racist joke, do you laugh or remain silent? If someone advocates for laws which benefit the rich and the middle class but hurt the poor, do you support those laws? If someone is bullying someone smaller or weaker, do you just watch? Track the day-to-day ways in which you practice justice and a special option for the poor; also track when you practice injustice or tolerate it in others. Then choose one way in which you are unjust and work this week on becoming a more faithful person or family.

<https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel...

... **to the First Reading:** As God formed Isaiah from his mother's womb to be his prophet and a “light to the nations,” so are we called from our baptism to be that same “light to the nations,” revealing the Christ in us to all those we meet.

... **to experience:** We sometimes hear limited and even trite descriptions of who Jesus is, for example, “Jesus is the answer” or WWJD. But the richness of the mystery of Christ encompasses a breadth and depth that cannot be exhausted in quick answers or pithy statements. Nor can it be exhausted even in a life faithfully lived.



www.liturgy.slu.edu

Jesus, The Son of God

"I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." (John 1:31)

Adult Question: We witness to Christ as John did, by living lives full of generosity, forgiveness, and mercy toward others. When do you find it most difficult to do this?

Child Question: Who has surprised you by doing something kind for you when you did not expect it?

<https://pastoral.center>

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen:

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

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:

Where should a crucifix be placed in a home?

Answer:

In a place conducive to veneration and prayer. In addition to a family crucifix in the area of the house where a family gathers together for prayer, it is also nice to provide personal crucifixes for the bedrooms of family members so that they may pray privately or offer up their suffering when they are ill.

www.Catholic.com



In a culture that increasingly rejects Christ, hanging the crucifix is a reminder that Christ died for us, and that salvation is the ultimate gift. One is commonly hung above the front door, a reminder that Jesus is welcome in the home. It is common to put a crucifix over the bedroom door or bed – a reminder of faith and for spiritual protection.



Stay connected with us for free!

Text 'SMDOF' to 84576 or connect with us online at

SACREDHEARTAK.FLOCKNOTE.COM/STMARKPARISH



The Diocese of Fairbanks has a **JOB OPENING** for a **Maintenance Technician**.

This position is responsible for performing facility management and upkeep of buildings located on the Peger Road campus and other buildings managed by the Chancery. Duties also include grounds maintenance and assisting parishes with maintenance questions and concerns. Full-time hourly (non-exempt) position with benefits. For more information, to request a formal job description, or to submit a cover letter and résumé please contact humanresources@cbna.org.

The local Right to Life group will be holding our annual FAIRBANKS STAND FOR LIFE on the Cushman Street Bridge on Friday, January 23, 2026, from 5:00-6:00 PM.



Help is needed in setting out and lighting ice luminaries and encouraging young adult groups as well as families to line the bridges and hold signs. Encourage people to attend Adoration and pray!

Dress for the weather. Signs will be provided
Contacts for R.T.L: Pamela 907-322-2201,
Jodi 907-322-0227 or April 907-347-2357.

Ordinary time is represented by the liturgical color green. The symbol of hope is the color of sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
BEHOLD THE LAMB



“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

Be honest. When the priest or deacon read this line from the Gospel today, did your brain finish it with: “Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb”? (Mine did. And then I almost blurted out: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul will be healed.” Because it’s Sunday morning, and I’m tired.)

We hear the words of John the Baptist every Sunday in the *Agnus Dei*. If you have been Catholic since childhood, the words of this rite are probably ingrained in your memory, like a groove worn across a wooden floor by the scratching of an often-used chair. That’s the beautiful thing about our liturgy: it gets inside of you, and it doesn’t leave. I’ve never met a Catholic, however long-fallen-away, who did not recall the responses of the Mass.

When the priest says or chants the *Agnus Dei*, he is showing us the Host — the most ordinary-looking thing you ever did see. Nothing interesting about it whatsoever. Nothing that would make a person give it a second glance.

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary looking about him. There is nothing that would make a person give Jesus a second glance, if that person expected redemption to come in a loud, aggressive show of power.

And this is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

Consider what the world could look like, if an instinct to love and reverence those people were as deeply ingrained in us as the beautiful words so easily on our lips: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.”

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – January 18 2026©Lpi.

“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.

Pray that we may faithfully live as God’s stewards, fulfilling the plan He had for each of us as He formed us in the womb.



Stewardship Report
 January :11 \$ 1,264.55
 Actual Collection YTD
 7/25- 6/26: \$ 40,757.18
 Parishioner Count: 112

Your financial support is a blessing. God Bless You!

2025 Tax Statements are available. You can contact the parish office if you haven't received it by January 25th.

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.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, especially McKinley Win Ostanik and his family he leaves behind.*

Vocations

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

John's recognition of Jesus calls us to keep our focus on Christ and His mission. Christ's mercy is made present through priests in the sacraments. Is God calling you to this ministry? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or via email:

vocations@cbna.org or check out www.facebook.com/FairbanksVocations.

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/>



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!



DIocese of FAIRBANKS

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 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

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>