



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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



January 25, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

The Lord is our refuge, our light, our salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Paul urges the community at Corinth to be united as people baptized in Christ's name.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins to preach in Galilee and calls his first disciples.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

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

1/25-31: Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

2/3: 7:30 AM *St. Blaise Blessing of the Throats* 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: MATTHEW

One of the Twelve Apostles and author of the first Gospel. He was a tax collector for the Roman government. Mark and Luke reported that Matthew (also known as Levi) was carrying on his work in the customhouse when Jesus called him to join the band of disciples, and Matthew promptly obeyed (Mark 2:14). Later, when he entertained Jesus and his followers at a reception in his home, it was evident how strongly the Jews resented and despised tax collectors (Luke 5:27-32). Nothing can be learned about his personal life from his writings, because he never spoke about himself in his Gospel. His purpose was to convince Christians of Jewish origin that Jesus was the Messiah and fulfilled the promises of the prophets. It is not surprising, therefore, that Matthew cites the Old Testament more frequently than either Mark or Luke. (Etym. Greek *mathaios* or *matthaios*; from Aramaic *mattai*, a shorter form of Hebrew *mattanyah*, a gift of Yahweh.)

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

Music of the Mass – January 25, 2026



464 Christ Be Our Light

388 The Summons

134 Save Your People

204 Blessed By Your Sacrifice

382 City of God

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

LENT IS COMING! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th and concludes on Holy Thursday, April 2nd. Save the dates.

2/18 Ash Wednesday Services at Sacred Heart Cathedral
7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 6:00 PM

2/22 (Sun) Rite of Election - 4:00 PM at Sacred Heart

3/12 (Thu) Chrism Mass – 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart
Communal Penance & Lenten Talks at SHC – TBA.



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 January 25th @ 6:30PM. Meets in Community Room downstairs at Sacred Heart Cathedral after 5:30PM St. Mark University Parish Mass.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st Monday of the Month –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: Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM at Miguel’s Authentic Mexican Restaurant. For Young Adults ages 18-35.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Palms - starting next Sunday, February 1st, bring in last year’s palms and leave in the box on the table in front of the Sacred Heart offices.

Blessed Candles - St. Mark’s has purchased beeswax candles that will be blessed and one per household will be available February 8th (Sunday).

St. Blaise Blessing of the Throats takes place on the Feast of St. Blaise - Tuesday, February 3rd. Sacred Heart Cathedral Mass is at 7:30 AM; Immaculate Conception 12:10 PM; St. Raphael 9:30 AM, and St. Nicholas 9:00 AM.



Justice Challenge: The Gospel for Sunday includes Jesus’ call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be his apostles. Scripture tells us that they dropped their nets and immediately responded to his invitation. Your challenge this week is to listen to Jesus’ call to you. What is he asking you to do this week, particularly for those who are in need of healing. Just as Jesus cured those who were sick as he proclaimed the Kingdom of God, how can you help to heal someone who has an injured heart or soul? How can you bring them Jesus’ message of God’s boundless love and desire that all people live in dignity and hope?

<https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel...

... **to the First Reading:** The darkness to which Isaiah political reality of oppression and subjugation. The “great light” symbolizes Israel’s deliverance and freedom. By situating Jesus in the same land of darkness, Matthew is asserting that the great light shining in the darkness is Jesus.



... **to experience:** We easily identify figures of immense personal presence (Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.) who changed the course of human history. Jesus’ personal Presence is so utterly immense that he even more dramatically changed the course of human history.

www.liturgy.slu.edu

Following Jesus

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.” (Matthew 4:23)

Adult Question: To whom could you preach the gospel of Jesus Christ this week with actions rather than words? Child Question: What could you do for someone this week that would tell them something about Jesus?

<https://pastoral.center>

Question: What is the most commonly used sacramental in the Catholic Church?
(Answer on last page.)

Catholic Answers

Question:

How many times do we ask for forgiveness during Mass?

Answer:

There are three parts of the Mass that are explicitly penitential. The first is, obviously, the Penitential Rite (“Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy”). The second is the Our Father, in which we ask God to “forgive us our trespasses.” And the third explicit mention is immediately before Communion when we pray: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.”

There are also less explicit penitential aspects to the Mass. The Scripture readings call us to repentance, and the homily might do so as well. Additionally, kneeling before the Eucharist is a sign of penitence and humility in the presence of Christ. And sometimes the prayers of the Mass specifically call us to repentance.

www.Catholic.com



(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
SEA OF GALILEE MOMENTS



Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor, healthy or sick: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

So what's in the sea? I don't know about yours, but mine is filled with feelings of inadequacy. It's filled with fear and resentment and confusion. It's filled with misplaced pride. It's deep. It's dark. It's well-stocked.

I cast my net, over and over again. What else is there to do? If I draw back a harvest, it can sustain me for days, weeks, maybe even years. The nourishment of the sea can keep away the hunger pangs — for a time. You can survive on fear and resentment and pride if it's all you have. You'll never feel full, and you'll never be strong, but you'll survive on what the world can offer you — so long as you keep coming back to the shore.

This is where Jesus finds us.

If I close my eyes, I can picture the moments exactly, all of them: my Sea of Galilee moments. I could describe them to you — the day, the year, what was happening in my life, what I wanted and what I needed and what gnawing hunger had brought me, once again, limping, crawling back to the shore.

But you wouldn't understand my Sea of Galilee moments, just like I wouldn't understand yours. There is only one who understands, and his is the voice we heard, clear and strong: “Put down the net, and come with me.”
Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – January 22, 2026©Lpi.



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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.

Celebrate & Support Fairbanks Catholic Schools!

On September 3, 1946, a school was opened in the basement of Immaculate Conception where 36 children were enrolled in grades K-4. It jumped to 104 the next year. In 1950 barracks were moved on the present land and Immaculate Conception School was opened for grades K-8 in 1951. High School was held in the basement of ICC beginning in 1956 while the high school was being built. Over the years the school grew with the addition of the gymnasium (Boileau Hall) and Holy Family Chapel. The Monroe Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1958 for 7 years to advance the goals and progress of the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks. In 1968, Bishop Whelan assigned Fr. McGuigan, S.J. as Executive Director of Monroe Foundation and 1970 initiated the first HIPOW Auction. It continues to be the largest fundraiser for the school.

www.catholic-schools.org



Ordinary time is represented by the liturgical color green. The symbol of ‘hope, life, anticipation’ 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. This season focuses on the Lord's three-year public ministry, His teachings and miracles; a reminder that the mission of the church is to share the hope and life of Christ with the world.

www.catholicerald.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 18 \$ 960.00
Actual Collection
7/25- 6/26: \$ 41,717.18
Parishioner Count: 112

Your financial support is a blessing. God Bless You!

2025 Tax Statements were mailed out last week. If you haven't received anything by the 28th and donated over \$200 by check or WeShare, please contact the St. Mark office or email mbogger@cbna.org to get a copy.

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. For all living in areas of conflict. May the new year bring peace and strength to all. Remember all who have passed (McKinley Win Ostanik).

Vocations

National Catholic Schools Week

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
(Matthew 4:19)

During National Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate how education forms disciples in faith and character. Just as educators guide students in their growth, Jesus invites you to follow Him boldly. Could He be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life to help form others in His ways? 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: The Sign of the Cross <https://aleteia.org/>

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Father in Heaven,
In baptism you called me to be priest, prophet, and king.
As priest, I am called to offer my life to your, to sacrifice.
As prophet, I am called to spread the Good News.
As king, I am called to be your daughter (son), an heir to your Kingdom.



Please send your Holy Spirit to show me how I can live this calling.
Show me how I might serve.
Also, show my brothers and sisters how they are called to serve you:
As priest, sisters, brothers, deacons, lay minister, married people, consecrated singles.

There are so many opportunities for me to lay down my life for you.
Help me see where you are calling me at this time in my life.
Make me open to discern my vocation.
I ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ my Lord.



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.

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

Interesting fact: The Diocese of Fairbanks is the largest physical area diocese in the United States (409,849 m²). Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith in Canada, in Northwest Territories, is the largest in North America (588,188 m²).

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>