



# 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.

### 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

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

## SUNDAY READINGS



**First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13**

There will be a people who remain sheltered from God's anger.

**Responsorial: Psalm 146:6-10**

The Lord is faithful forever.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

God chooses the weak to show his power.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12a**

Jesus teaches what it means to be happy.

### 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

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

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

2/7-14: National Marriage Week

2/8: World Marriage Day (Second Sunday of February)

2/18: **ASH WEDNESDAY**

2/19-22: Men's Spiritual Exercise

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

### Catholic Definition: SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Any set program of religious duties, notably the prayers, meditations, and spiritual reading required of persons following a distinctive rule of life. Also, the period of silence and prayerful reflection practiced annually (or more often) in a retreat. Particularly the Spiritual Exercises by St. Ignatius Loyola, drawn up as a method of arriving at the amendment of one's life and resolving on a determined way of holiness. The Exercises of St. Ignatius were first composed by him in a cave at Manresa, in Spain, after his conversion. They have been recommended by successive popes as a most effective program of spiritual renewal for priests, religious, and the laity. their underlying principle is their opening statement that "Man was created to praise, reverence and serve our Creator and Lord, and by this means to save his soul." Given this basic purpose of human existence, the believer is told how to reach his or her destiny by overcoming sinful tendencies and imitating Christ in carrying the Cross on earth in order to be glorified with Christ in the life to come. <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

### Music of the Mass – February 1, 2026

640 Lead Me, Lord

473 Prayer of St. Francis

466 We Are the Light of the World

651 O Breathe on Me, O Breath of Life  
730 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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



### LENT IS FAST APPROACHING!

*Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and concludes on Holy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Save these 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

**TBA: Communal Penance & Lenten Talks** at SHC

**3/6 (Fri):** Knights of Coumbus Council 5011 **Fish Fry** at Monroe w/ Stations of the Cross

**Bring in Last Years Palms** and leave in the box/vase on the table in front of the Sacred Heart offices.



### 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)

**Young Adult Game Night** TBA. Meets in Community Room downstairs at Sacred Heart Cathedral after 5:30PM St. Mark University Parish Mass.

### MONDAY

**SHC Book Club:** Meets 12:30 – 2PM 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. **Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>** discusses *The Shroud of Jesus* by Gilbert Lavoie & *The Devil's Bagpipe: The True Life of Martin Luther (1581)* by James Lain. List of books found at [sacredheartak.org/parish-groups](http://sacredheartak.org/parish-groups). Meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: [43janett@gmail.com](mailto:43janett@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Bible Study:** Study Matthew on Monday, Jan. Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 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 every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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** – Next showing TBA.

### 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](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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WEEK OF FEB 1-7:

**Blessed Candles** – Monday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the 7:30AM SHC morning Mass St. Mark's will have beeswax tapers blessed which will be available to parishioner households on Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. Families are welcome to bring candles to this morning mass to be blessed and used in their homes.

**St. Blaise Blessing of the Throats takes place on the Feast of St. Blaise - Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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:** Sunday's Gospel is Jesus' beatitude teaching from the Sermon on the Mount. The beatitudes provide us with a blueprint for being people of faith and justice. Your challenge this week is to take one beatitude each day. Read the beatitude in the morning and ask God for the strength to practice that attitude throughout the day. Then in the evening, reflect on whether or not you lived that particular "attitude of being" in your life during the day. Thank God for your successes, ask for forgiveness where you failed, and pray for the courage and strength to live that beatitude in the future.

<https://pastoral.center>

### Focusing the Gospel...

**Key words and phrases:** Blessed are ..., for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



**To the point:** What identifies God's chosen "remnant" is not wealth, possessions, or power over others but lowliness, humility, justice, and truthfulness (see first reading). Jesus elaborates God's call to this

way of living when he proclaims the Beatitudes to his disciples. Our blessedness is both a quality of who we are and a blueprint for how we are to live as followers of Jesus. We are to be the "remnant" of who carry forth God's eternal plan for establishing a just reign.

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

### Blessed Are We

*Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:11-12)*

**Adult Question:** When you heard the Beatitudes announced today, which one struck you most strongly?

**Child Question:** Who is welcome in the reign of God? Who would you like to tell about the reign of God?

<https://pastoral.center>

**Question:** When Jesus was praying alone in the desert, how many times did the devil tempt him?  
(Answer on last page.)

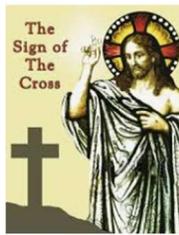
## Catholic Answers

### Question:

What is the significance of making the sign of the cross before and after private prayer?

### Answer:

The sign of the cross is closely tied to baptism. Jesus told the apostles, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that when Catholics are baptized “the sign of the cross, on the threshold of the celebration, marks with the imprint of Christ the one who is going to belong to him and signifies the grace of the Redemption Christ won for us by his cross” (CCC 1235).

Thereafter, each time we make the sign of the cross we remember that we belong to Christ.

The Christian begins his day, his prayers, and his activities with the sign of the cross: “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” The baptized person dedicates the day to the glory of God and calls on the Savior’s grace which lets him act in the Spirit as a child of the Father. The sign of the cross strengthens us in temptations and difficulties. (CCC 2157)

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

(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)

### WHAT STAYS THE SAME



Somewhere, there is a monk whose life is very quiet and who devotes long hours to prayer. And somewhere there is a nun, cloistered in a life of contemplation, who speaks very little except to God.

Somewhere, there is a father whose days are filled with noise, who hasn’t finished a Rosary in years because he keeps falling asleep. Somewhere there is a mother whose voice is weak with giving direction and offering counsel.

Somewhere, there is a teenage girl with much to say, but few people to listen — fewer, at least, than she would like.

Somewhere there is a woman who holds a positive pregnancy test in one hand and a phone in the other, and somewhere there is a man on the other end of that phone who waits for her to speak.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus utilizes a literary device called *anaphora*. Both as a reader and a writer, I love anaphora. It’s a clean, unfussy way to communicate a point. By repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, you’re basically saying the same thing over and over again, just a little bit differently each time. Those small differences tease at your audience’s brain, gently highlighting the consistencies.

Discipleship is a lot like anaphora. It’s the differences — those little aberrations from person to person, life to life — that so beautifully illustrate what remains the same across the broad spectrum of what it means to live out the Beatitudes.

Me. You. The monk. The nun. The father. The mother. The lonely girl. The man and woman who decided their own future without realizing it. How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world.

And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven.” Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – January 29, 2026©Lpi.

**Interesting facts:** The first major work printed commercially in Europe with movable metal type was the Catholic Bible and was also printed by a Catholic - Johannes Gutenberg - who invented the printing press. The text is St. Jerome’s Latin Vulgate version.

The first person ever to earn a PhD in Computer Science in the US was a Catholic nun, Sister Mary Keller.



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[SACREDHEARTAK.FLOCKNOTE.COM/STMARKPARISH](http://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](mailto:humanresources@cbna.org).

**St. Blaise Feast Day** – The feast of Sr. Blaise takes place on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. While Blaise was being taken into custody, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. Touched at her grief, he offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. Hence, St. Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat. Custom has it that throats





### Stewardship Report

January 25 \$ 916.00

Actual Collection

7/25- 6/26: \$ 42,633.18

Parishioner Count: 109

**Your financial support is a blessing. God Bless You!** In keeping with our mission, 3% of our January 2026 donations (\$123.87) has been given to “The Door” run by Fairbanks Youth Advocates. They provide a safe emergency shelter for youth 6–18 year-olds 7days a week-24 hours a day. Pray their work meets the needs of these young people.

**Contribution Statements** If you haven’t received your statement, please contact the St. Mark office or email [mboger@cbna.org](mailto:mboger@cbna.org) to get a copy.

### Contagious Stewardship

**“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”** **MATTHEW 5:16**

The generosity of being a good Steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Generosity is a by-product of a grateful lifestyle. The more we recognize God’s gifts, the more we want to share them. Good stewards recognize that God is working through them, and they don’t put themselves above the people they have been called to help. [www.camdendiocese.org](http://www.camdendiocese.org)



### FEBRUARY 2026 PRAYER INTENTION.

#### For children with incurable diseases.

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Pray for the Church (Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Steven Maekawa, OP, Rev. Ross Tozzi, Dcn. Warren Lucero, pastors, deacon, and religious in our diocese). Remember people burdened by difficulties – the sick, poor, unemployed, prisoners, and homeless; and the dead.

### Vocations

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** (Matthew 5:3)

The Beatitudes guide us in living holy and generous lives no matter the vocation He has placed on our heart. We are all called to embody these virtues, serving God and His people with humble hearts. Pray for discernment and openness to where God might be inviting you to follow Him. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (907) 374-9504 or via email:

[vocations@cbna.org](mailto:vocations@cbna.org) or check out [www.facebook.com/FairbanksVocations](https://www.facebook.com/FairbanksVocations).

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: Three <https://aleteia.org/>



### 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.

### FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2<sup>nd</sup> marks the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and it is traditionally called “Candlemas.”

It commemorates the 40<sup>th</sup> day after the birth of Jesus at which time he was consecrated to the Lord and traditionally includes the blessing of candles. If you have candles that you would like to have blessed, please bring them to one of the Masses on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Location | Chena Camp  
Cost | \$200

*The*  
**SPRITUAL**  
*Exercises*

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

**SPRING DATES**

February 19-22 (Men)  
Feb 26-Mar 1 (Women)  
Mar 5-8 (Men Spanish)

### Memento Mori Seminar

#### Conversations About the End of Life

Lent is a season of conversion, of growing in our knowledge of God and His ways and preparing for that time when we will meet him at the final judgement. On Ash Wednesday, in some parishes, as ash is placed on our foreheads the priest will say, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It is a reminder to contemplate our mortality and our disposition before the Lord.

A series of three talks will be offered to help to prepare for our passing from this life to eternal life. Topics will include *end of life/palliative care, wills, trusts, and bequests, planning for your final resting place with a funeral home, and planning your Catholic funeral Mass.*

The Memento Mori series will be held on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and March 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas Church in North Pole. A specific schedule of talks will be available in the coming days. No matter what your age, take time to reflect on your mortality and assist your family and friends with knowing your final wishes.

**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>

