



# 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. Dcn. 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 (SHC)  
*Easter & Christmas Masses are celebrated with SHC – please check their schedules at [sacredheartak.org](http://sacredheartak.org)*

**Campus Mass for Catholic Student Association (CSA):**

- 7 PM at Upper Lola Tilly Bldg., 7:30 PM Meeting/Discussion

**Low Gluten Host – If you need a low-gluten host, please contact the priest before mass.**

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

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*)

2/10: 7 PM CSA Campus Mass at Lola Tilly Bldg.

2/18: **ASH WEDNESDAY**

2/19-22: Men's Spiritual Exercise - <https://iccfairbanks.org/se>

2/22: **Rite of Elections 4:00 PM**

2/24: An Examination of Conscience with Dante 7 PM at ICC

2/26-3/1: Women's Spiritual Exercise - <https://iccfairbanks.org/se>

3/3: An Examination of Conscience with Dante-7 PM at St. Nicholas Church in North Pole (*both w/Fr. Robert Fath*)

3/9-12: Priest Convocation in Anchorage

### Please Welcome...

[Matthew Cornelius Lucero](#), the newborn son of Michael and Jitlada Lucero. Matthew was born on January 26, at 6-pound, 9 ounces, in good health. He will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM Sacred Heart Cathedral. Godparents are Erik and Carolyn Duke. Congratulations to the proud grandparents – Deacon Warren and Michelle Lucero.



February 8, 2026

# 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



**First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10**

In the work of justice, light shall break through darkness.

**Responsorial: Psalm 112:4-9**

The just person will be a light in the darkness.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

Paul shows that he came to Corinth preaching Christ crucified.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-16**

Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.



### Music of the Mass – February 8, 2026

320 Gather Us In

621 Whatsoever You Do

464 Christ, Be Our Light

217 Praise God, From Whom All Blessing Flow

467 I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light

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



### 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. List of books found at [sacredheartak.org/parish-groups](http://sacredheartak.org/parish-groups). Contact Jan Fortune for info at: [43janetf@gmail.com](mailto:43janetf@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Bible Study:** Study Matthew on Monday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup>, *except for April 6<sup>th</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). Contact: [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

**Baptism, First Communion & Confirmation:** Contact the Parish Office at 907-374-9544 if interested in receiving instructions or Fr. Ross Tozzi at [rtozzi@cbna.org](mailto:rtozzi@cbna.org) or call (907) 347-3005

**Marriage Preparations:** Contact Fr. Ross *six (6) months prior to wedding date or call the parish office at 907-374-9544.*



**Justice Challenge:** The First Reading for Sunday is from the prophet Isaiah. We are challenged by God’s Word: “Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own” (Isaiah 58:7-8). Your challenge this week is to choose one of the following works of mercy to live out God’s Word in the world: 1) go through your closets and donate good clothes to a homeless shelter; 2) go grocery shopping and buy several extra foodstuffs, then donate them to the local food bank or Catholic Charities; or 3) volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity build or donate money or resources to a homeless shelter. <https://pastoral.center>

### Focusing the Gospel...

**Key words and phrases:** salt, trampled, light, hidden, good deeds

**To the point:** This Gospel uses two metaphors with both positive and negative import. Salt enhances but is thrown away and trampled if it *becomes tasteless*. *Light shines but is ineffective* if it is hidden. Jesus is clearly saying that disciples must spend themselves in preserving and carrying forward his saving mission. Disciples must season the world with God’s word and faithfully shine forth God’s Presence. The choice is ours: to season or be discarded, to shine or be hidden. [www.liturgy.slu.edu](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu)



### Spreading The Light of Christ:

**Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)**

**Adult Question:** In what way might you be hiding the light of Christ from others? What could you do to improve this?

**Child Question:** How can you let the light of Christ in you shine for others this week?

<https://pastoral.center>



We are collecting last year’s blessed palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Please place on the small table in front of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Offices at our 5:30 PM Sunday Mass. Thank You!

**Question:** Who were the very first people to visit Jesus after he was born?  
(Answer on last page)

## Catholic Answers

### Question:

Does adding plain water to already blessed water make the added water holy?



### Answer:

The common custom (though not officially recognized) is that so long as the water added to the holy water does not amount to half the amount of the holy water then all water in the container is considered blessed water.

The reverse is also the common understanding. Adding a thimble of holy water to a gallon of regular water does not make the container full of holy water. The holy water would need to be more than 50% of the combined water.

As previously stated, this is common custom and not official teaching. Since it does not take very long for a priest or deacon to bless water, adding regular water to holy water should only be done when absolutely necessary. <https://www.catholic.com/>

(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)



### BE SALTY

I want you to close your eyes. Are they closed? (I'm serious.) Okay. Now think of the greatest saint in history.

I don't care who you're thinking of. It's going to be different for everyone. Just think of that person. Think of his or her life. And answer the question: Why is he or she a great saint?

You're all thinking of different people, but the answer is the same for everyone. And it's not "Because he did great things for God" or "Because she sacrificed everything she had for the poor." Those answers show *evidence* of the reason. But the reason is something more.

The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. God brought holiness about within them because (ding ding ding! Here's the answer!) the greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

Not who they wanted to be. Not who they thought they *should* be. Who were they meant to be.

Simply put, they gave themselves to God. All of themselves. Flaws and all. And God took them, in their totality, and said: "Now watch this."

Just imagine if salt was ashamed of being salty. Imagine if it looked at the sodium content on its nutrition label and thought, "That's embarrassing," and decided it was going to stop being salt. Well, great. Now it's just a box of tiny rocks.

Wouldn't it have been better for the salt to trust the baker using it?

There is a plan for each of us. There is a path to holiness for each of us. This path doesn't bypass our flaws or our weaknesses; it incorporates them. It transforms them. It fulfills them.

So be salty. Be who you were meant to be.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – February 5, 2026©Lpi.

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because he loves us."

~ C.S. Lewis

## MEMENTO MORI SEMINAR



Location: St. Nicholas Church, North Pole

### WILLS, TRUSTS, AND BEQUESTS

Heidi Holmes, J.D., Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

### PLANNING FOR YOUR FUNERAL

Fr. Robert and Jennica Worland, Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

### HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Chaplain Jim Rigsbee, Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm



For more information, please contact:  
Leigh Scarboro [lascarboro@gmail.com](mailto:lascarboro@gmail.com)  
Anna Fath [annamfath@gmail.com](mailto:annamfath@gmail.com)



Office of Faith and  
Family Formation

## LENT

*A season of Reflection, Renewal, and Preparation!*

**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

**2/24:** An Examination of Conscience with Dante  
presented by Fr. Robert Fath - 7 PM at ICC

**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



**Stewardship Report**  
 February 1: \$ 977.00  
 Actual Collection:  
 7/25-6/26: \$ 43,595.18  
 Parishioner Count: 111

**Thank you for your continued support and prayers!**  
 Our 3% of February Collection total will go toward the *Black & Indian Missions*. *Operation Rice Bowl* bowls will be available on Ash Wednesday (Feb 18<sup>th</sup>). Feed the bowl until Easter (April 5<sup>th</sup>) and return by April 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Giving Stewardship***

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

The phrase “poor in spirit” can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God’s providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthy things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others through Stewardship to obtain their basic needs.



**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, Deacon Warren Lucero, and all pastors, deacons, and religious in our diocese).

On World Marriage Day, pray for all couples living out the sacrament of holy matrimony.

**World Marriage Day & National Marriage Week**

***“You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)***

On World Marriage Day, we honor couples who shine Christ’s love through their union. Holy Matrimony is a vocation of light, illuminating the world with faith and fidelity. Renew your commitment with your spouse in prayer.

**RESPECT FOR LIFE PRAYER**

O God, our eyes behold the beauty of your creation, and our ears catch the sounds of your power.  
 We hold our lives sacred because they are your gift.  
 Bring us to greater awareness of the Sanctity of human life and to sorrow for the times we have ignored or offended it.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure are greatly appreciated not just by the soup kitchen, but especially by the people served. Your donations are making a great difference in their lives! The kitchen can be reached by e-mail at



[iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org](mailto:iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org), by phone at 907-452-3533, ext. 22, or in person at Immaculate Conception Church between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

<https://www.iccfairbanks.org/soup-kitchen>

**Preparing for Mass**

We should plan our schedule around Mass, not Mass around our schedule. +Arriving early allows us to read the Scriptures ahead of time and spend some time in prayer. +Going to Confession before Mass. For those unable to go on Saturday at SHC (3-4 PM), see the priest before mass. +Putting our hands (palms together) together during Mass is a way to focus on God, surrender to him, and submit to his will. A reminder that we are not in control, but God is.

**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>

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Answer:** Two local shepherds who were told about Jesus by an angel <https://aleteia.org/>