



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. Dcn. 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

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

Campus Mass for Catholic Student Association (CSA):
- 7 PM at Upper Lola Tilly Bldg., 7:30 PM Meeting

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

Daylight Savings Time: March 8

CALENDAR of EVENTS

2/24, 3/3: 7 PM Chrism Mass Choir Practice at SHC

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

2/22: Rite of Elections 4:00 PM

2/22: Young Adult Game Night – 6:30 PM at SHC

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

2/26: Memento Mori Seminar – 7 PM at St. Nick's, North Pole

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

3/3: An Examination of Conscience with Dante-
7 PM at St. Nick's, North Pole

3/5: Memento Mori Seminar – 7 PM at St. Nick's

3/5-8: Men Spanish Spiritual Exercise <https://iccfairbanks.org/se>

3/6: Knights of Columbus FISH FRY – Monroe HS 5 – 8 PM
5:30 PM Stations of the Cross at Monroe

3/9-12: Priest Convocation in Anchorage

3/12: Chrism Mass – 7 PM at SHC

3/17: An Examination of Conscience with Dante – 7 PM at ICC

3/29-4/5: Holy Week

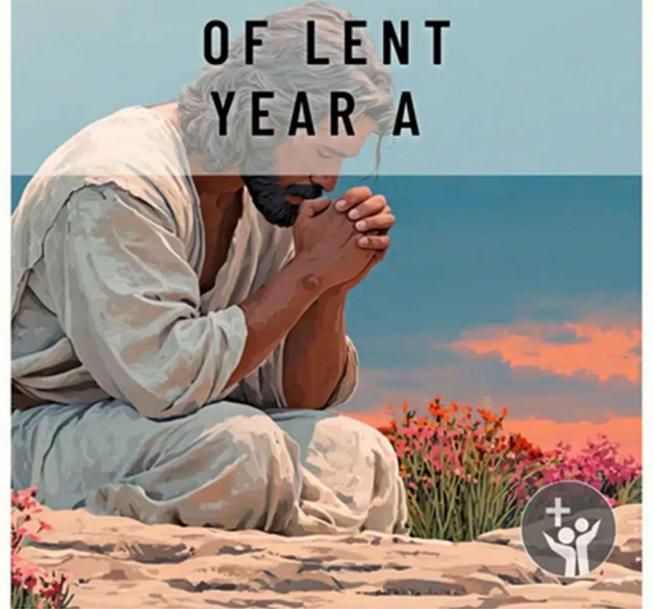
Sacred Heart Lenten Fridays

Join the faithful during Lent for
5:30 PM Mass – 6 PM Stations
- followed by a simple potluck dinner
in social room downstairs.



February 22, 2026

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A



First Reading: *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7*

Eve and Adam eat from the tree that was forbidden to them by God.

Responsorial: *Psalms 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17*

A prayer for mercy

Second Reading: *Romans 5:12-19*

Through the obedience of Jesus, many will be made righteous. (shorter form: Romans 5:12,17-19)

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 4:1-11*

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

Music of the Mass – February 22

132 Forty Days and Forty Nights

146 The Glory of These Forty Days

130 Led By The Spirit

143 From the Depths We Cry To Thee

125 Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

Mass Part: Mass of Creation #867-871



*St. Mark University Parish mailing address is:
1316 Peger Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5168.



****Check with parish or meeting contact to see whether an event or class is cancelled or rescheduled due to weather.**

Note that Masses or not cancelled, keep your safety in mind when choosing to travel in bad weather.

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 Meet in Community Room, Feb. 22nd at 6:30 PM downstairs at Sacred Heart Cathedral after 5:30 PM St. Mark University Parish Mass.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: Meets 12:30 – 2PM 1st Monday of the month. List of books found at sacredheartak.org/parish-groups. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: 43janctf@gmail.com

Diocesan Bible Study: Study Matthew on Monday, now until April 13th, *except for April 6th*, 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: Next meeting TBA. 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). Contact: 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check front page “Calendar of Events.”

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 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.

Question: According to the Acts of the Apostles, who was selected to replace the Apostle Judas?
(Answer on last page)



Come join the choir in singing for the Chrism Mass! Chrism Mass is right around the corner – Thursday, March 12, at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7:00 pm. *The diocese is putting together a city-wide choir for this important liturgy and we want you involved.*

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays (Feb. 24 and March 3) at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary of Sacred Heart Cathedral led by Therese Yew and Dominic Dosch, two of our young adults who have graciously stepped forward organizing and assisting. Questions can be directed to Fr. Robert Fath at rfath@cbna.org or by calling 907-374-9504. *Copies of the music can be picked up at Sacred Heart Cathedral in front of their office.*

“He who sings, prays twice.” ~ St. Augustine



Justice Challenge: The Gospel recounts Jesus’ experience of being tempted by the devil after 40 days of retreat in the desert. Jesus was tempted to indulge in physical satisfaction (eating bread), ego satisfaction (throwing himself off the temple to be saved by angels), and the satisfaction of power (having the world at his feet if he worshipped the devil). Your challenge this week is to take a serious look at the power you hold over other people—your children or parents, your colleagues at work or school, your friends. Do you use your power in a holy way? Do you ever abuse your power? Pray this week that you always remember that only God really has the power. Remind yourself that you are called to use the power entrusted to you to serve others in the same way Jesus did.

<https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel...

... to the Second Reading: The Second Reading contrasts Adam, who did not resist temptation with its consequences for humanity, and Christ, who did resist temptation and so gave humanity the promise of new Life. How frequently we are like Adam; how continuously grace calls us to be like Christ!

... to experience: We use the word “temptation” rather lightly in all kinds of contexts; for example, we say we are “tempted” to abandon our diet for a sumptuous dessert. But the nature of temptation described in this Sunday’s readings is much more serious, for its consequences involve our very Life and salvation



www.liturgy.slu.edu

Overcoming Temptation

“Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Matthew 4:1)

Adult Question: What helpful advice could you offer someone faced with a temptation?

Child Question: What helps you do the right thing when you want to do something wrong?

<https://pastoral.center>

Catholic Answers

Question:

What is Lent?

Answer:

Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, mirroring Jesus' forty days in the desert and also anticipating his passion, death and triumphant resurrection:

"By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert." (CCC 540, see 542)

Additionally, paragraph 1438 of the Catechism describes Lent as a penitential season:

The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works). [CCC 1438, emphasis original]

Thus, Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, one that not only looks forward to the joy of Jesus' Resurrection (beginning with the Easter Octave), but also provides the faithful—both Catholics and those joining the Church—an annual opportunity to fortify their faith and otherwise grow in holiness for the sake of Christ's kingdom (John 13:34-35; see Matt. 6:10; 24:14. <https://www.catholic.com/>)



(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)



INTO THE DESERT

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... *hard*.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's *so hard to be good*? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – February 19, 2026@Lp

FROM THE OFFICE OF FAITH AND FAMILY FORMATION:



The website for signing up for World Youth Day is live, and we will be having a diocese-wide "World Youth Day Sneak Peak" offered by Verso Ministries, the organization helping coordinate our travel, on a Sunday in March (*date to be announced*) for those who would like to learn more. Those interested will need to register. There is also a new registration deadline of April 1st. Go to the Diocesan webpage <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/world-youth-day-seoul-2027> If you have questions contact Director of Faith and Family Formation – Michael Olsta, S.T.L. at olsta@cbna.org or 907-374-9526.

RESPECT LIFE

May every human life be protected in law and welcomed in love.



"The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and *likeness* and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless

worth of any human life. Every person is cherished."

www.usccb.org/respect-life



Meatless Recipes from Around the World – try 2026 Lenten Recipes featured from CRS Rice Bowl during Lent:

https://www.crsricebowl.org/recipes?sort_by=search_api_relevance

"The ultimate goal of fasting is to help each one of us to make a complete gift of self to God." ~ Pope Benedict XVI



Stewardship Report
 February 15: \$ 1,272.0
 Actual Collection:
 7/25-6/26: \$ 45,384.18
 Parishioner Count: 106

Thank you for your continued and generous 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 18th). Feed the bowl until Easter (April 5th) and return by April 12.

Stewardship Service

***"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'"* MATTHEW 4:10**

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent living Stewardship and letting go of the other "gods" we have put before God. 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, Deacon Warren Lucero, and all pastors, deacons, and religious in our diocese.

Pray that all may encounter God's presence during this Lenten season. For the safety for all who are travelling. Please keep our parishioners in prayers, especially the sick, homebound, elderly and those who have died, may they be at peace.

Vocations

***"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4)**

Lent invites us to rely on God's Word. In holy matrimony, couples live by this Word, nourishing their love with faith. Spend some time this week in scripture and pray together. If you are single, pray for your vocation and the one God may be preparing for you. vocations@cbna.org

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Answer: St. Matthias <https://aleteia.org/>

MEMENTO MORI SEMINAR



Location: St. Nicholas Church, North Pole
WILLS, TRUSTS, AND BEQUESTS
 Heidi Holmes, J.D., Thursday February 19th @ 7pm
PLANNING FOR YOUR FUNERAL
 Fr. Robert and Jennica Worland, Thursday, February 26th @ 7pm
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
 Chaplain Jim Rigsbee, Thursday, March 5th @ 7pm



For more information, please contact:
 Leigh Scarboro lascarboro@gmail.com
 Anna Fath annamfath@gmail.com



For more detail on these talks go to:
<https://www.stnicholasnp.org/memento-mori-seminar>



Ending Hunger with CRS Rice Bowl

Lent: A Time of Preparation

CRS Rice Bowl brings Catholics across the United States together each Lent to respond to global hunger and poverty through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope.

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." ~ Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Former pastor Fr. Jim Kolb, CSP celebrates his 50th anniversary in the priesthood this year. If you would like to send good wishes or photos for a scrapbook to Fr. Jim, please send to FrJim50th@gmail.com by April 12. (Fr. Jim does not monitor this email.)

The Paulist fathers will be celebrating Mass in honor of his golden jubilee on May 2 at 11 Am at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Portland, OR.

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>