



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.

MARCH 15, 2026

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

Music Director: George Stefan

CSA Advisor: Devan Larson

Finance Council: Marilis Bennett, Jen Tucker,

Fr. Ross Tozzi

St. Mark Sunday Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass: 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC)
No St. Mark 5:30 PM Easter Mass. We join Sacred Heart Cathedral at the Vigil Mass.

Campus Mass for Catholic Student Association (CSA):

- No Mass due to UAF Spring Break March 9-13

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

CARE OF THE SICK: Please notify the Parish Office or priest when someone is seriously ill so that we can provide spiritual care.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

3/15: Young Adult Game Night 6:30 PM at SHC

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

3/17: Catholic Schools of Fairbanks St. Patrick's Day
Dinner and Raffle 6:00 PM

3/18: 6 PM Sacred Heart Cathedral Communal Penance

3/21: Altar Server Training at SHC 10-Noon

3/29: Palm Sunday

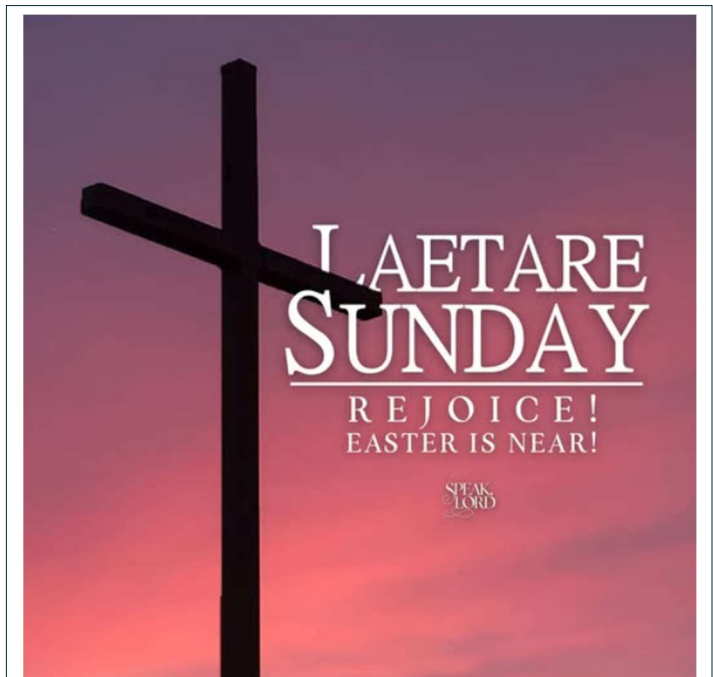
4/2: Holy Thursday

4/3: Good Friday

Catholic Definition: LAETARE SUNDAY

The fourth Sunday of Lent, when the introductory word of the Introit is laetare, "*Rejoice O Jerusalem.*" As it is Mid-Lent Sunday, rose vestments are worn, flowers are permitted on the altar, and the organ is played. On this day, the Golden Rose is blessed. The day is referred to also as Mediana, Mid-Lent, Mi-Carême, Mothering, Rose, or Refreshment Sunday.

www.catholicculture.org



First Reading: *1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a*

Samuel is sent to anoint David as king.

Responsorial: *Psalm 23:1-6*

The Lord is our shepherd.

Second Reading: *Ephesians 5:8-14*

The Ephesians are told to live as children of light.

Gospel Reading: *John 9:1-41*

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

Music of the Mass – March 15



320 Gather Us In

519 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

520 Shepherd Me, O God

400 What Wondrous Love Is This

467 I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

Upcoming Holy Days at Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Holy Thursday – April 2: 7:00 PM

Good Friday – April 3: 7:00 PM (Stations at 3:00 PM)

Easter Vigil – April 4: 8:00 PM

Easter – 8:00 & 11:00 AM, and 1:00 PM Spanish



SUNDAY

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

Young Adult Game Night Meet in Community Room, March 15th at 6:30 PM downstairs at Sacred Heart Cathedral after 5:30PM St. Mark University Parish Mass.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: Meets 1st Monday of the month. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: 43janetf@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: Tuesdays 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 -- Altar Server Training - at Sacred Heart Cathedral: March 21st from 3-4pm 10am in the Sanctuary.

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.

On Becoming Catholic: Those seeking information about the Catholic Faith are invited to contact the Parish Office at 907-374-9544

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who had a dream about Jesus during his trial and before his crucifixion?
(Answer on back page)



Justice Challenge: Sunday's Gospel addresses the story of the man born blind. The Jews blamed his parents and their sins for his condition, but Jesus taught a different message—that God doesn't punish people for things which aren't their fault. Your challenge this week is to look at how you judge others and yourself. Do you look at people's actions through the lens of a loving God? Do you give others the benefit of the doubt? And are you gentle with yourself? Do you forgive yourself when you mess up, trusting in a God who forgives infinitely? God is the arbiter of justice, and we are called to trust in God's judgment, which ultimately is so much more merciful than human judgment. Place the world in God's hands this week and stop yourself from judging. <https://pastoral.center>

Connecting the Gospel

...to the Second Reading: By Samuel's anointing, David is re-created from shepherd to king. By Jesus' anointing, the blind man is re-created from unseeing to believing. By our baptism, we are re-created from doing "fruitless works of darkness" to being "children of light."

... to experience: When we are young, we flip-flop about who we are. Only time and experience grant us the wisdom of knowing with sureness who we have grown to become. This sureness enables us to be stalwart in our values and beliefs. www.liturgy.slu.edu



Source of Light

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as Children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.
(Ephesians 5:8–9)

Adult Question: What are you doing in your life right now to move toward light rather than darkness?

Child Question: How can you let the light of your faith in Jesus shine for others to see? <http://pastoralcenter>



3rd Annual "Way of the Cross for Victims of Abortion" will be held Tuesday, March 31st, from 5:00 – 6:00 PM in front of Planned Parenthood on the sidewalk. Booklets provided.

Dress for the weather and bring a friend.

For more information contact Susan at 907-450-9855 or Jodi at 907-322-0227.

Saint Patrick quote:

"May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore." (c.415-493?)



Question:

What is the meaning of the baptismal gifts of priest, prophet, and king?



Answer:

The baptized serve as priests through their sacrificial efforts to bring people to God. They serve as prophets through their witness to the truth in word and deed. And they serve as kings in their efforts to lead others—again through word and deed—to use their talents to advance the Kingdom of God (see CCC 1241).

Question: What is the difference between saints and blessed?

Answer:

There are several steps in the Church's process of declaring someone a saint. From first to last, the corresponding titles are Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed, and Saint. "Blesseds" are those who have been beatified. Beatification typically requires one attested miracle and allows the beatified person to be venerated by his local church. Canonization typically requires two attested miracles and allows veneration of the saint by the universal Church. Canonization is a definitive and therefore infallible statement by the Church that the saint is in heaven. <https://www.catholic.com/>



Feeding Dreams in Timor-Leste

By participating in CRS Rice Bowl, we are helping young people in Timor-Leste find opportunities and support to fulfill their dreams of becoming leaders in their communities. Visit <https://crsricebowl.org/week-3> to read about Adriana's dream of becoming a doctor in this week's Story of Hope.

If you would like to donate toward the **Easter Lilies** decorating the church in memory in honor of a loved one, please use an envelope by the Sacred Heart Cathedral Office door or use a plain envelope and drop in the collection box.



Include your name and the name of those you wish to remember – please print clearly. Suggested donation is \$25 per flower. Any donation to help defray the expense of beautification of the church for Easter is appreciated.

If you have questions, please contact SHC Office at (907) 474-9032.

THINK ABOUT JOINING THE MASS MINISTRIES FOR ST. MARK UNIVERSITY PARISH – ALTAR SERVER, READER, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF THE CUP, OR CHOIR. TRAINING PROVIDED. TRAINING PROVIDED. CONTACT OUR PARISH OFFICE AT 907-374-9544 OR EMAIL: stmark@cbna.org



I don't know about you. But if I was a blind person sitting by the side of the road, minding my own business, and a stranger came along and rubbed spit-mud in my eye, I'm just salty enough that I would ignore his words out of spite.

Even though he was, admittedly, super-nice about the whole thing.

Obviously, I would wash the mud out, because ... spit. But I wouldn't go to the Pool of Siloam. I would go to a pool *on the whole other side of town*, just to be contrary. I would make frustrated, grossed-out noises while I splashed water on my eyes: "Ugh! I can't believe this! People are the worst!" I would feel satisfied that I wasn't tricked or conned or taken advantage of.

And I would stay blind the rest of my life.

When Jesus performs a miracle in the Gospel, we sometimes think of it like a fireworks show. Something people point at — "Ooh! Aah!" — and move on from. But a miracle of Jesus is not a party trick. It is commissioning.

And each of us, in our own way, has the choice of accepting it or not.

Nowhere in the Gospel story does it say that Jesus promised the man sight if he washed in the pool. I wonder what it was that made the blind man feel he could trust Jesus. Was it something in his voice? Was it something in his touch? Was it the humanity with which he spoke of the blind man to his disciples — a gentleness missing from most other interactions of his life?

We'll never know. But we do know this: the blind man's sight wasn't restored until he made a decision. A decision to be sent. Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – March 12 2026©Lpi

"The Lord measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them." ~St. John of the Cross



Sacred Heart Cathedral Lenten Fridays

Join the faithful during Lent for 5:30 PM Mass & 6 PM Stations followed by 7 pm Simple Meal Potluck.



Stewardship Report
 March 8: \$1,092.00
 Actual Collection:
 7/25-6/26: \$48,800.18
 Parishioner Count: 103

Thank you for your continued prayers and donations!

During Lent you will find Operation Rice Bowl bowls on a table at the church entrance. Please feed the bowl until Easter (April 5th) and return by April 12th.

Heartfelt Stewards

“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent, and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car, and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our **Stewardship** of time, talent, and treasure here on earth.

www.camdendiocese.org



“Temper all your works with moderation, that is to say, all your abstinence, your fasting, your vigils, and your prayers, for temperance sustains your body and soul with the proper measure, lest they fail. It reminds an honorable person that he is ashes and shall return to ashes [cf. Gen 3.19]
 —St. Hildegard of Bingen



MARCH 2026 PRAYER INTENTION
For disarmament and peace:

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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 for the health and well-being of all in our community and protect them from harm. especially those who have died.
Pray for all who protect us from harm.
Pray for all those preparing to receive Sacraments at Easter.
Pray for the safety of children and their families during Spring Break that God will preserve them from harm, help them to make wise decisions, and protect them as they travel.

VOCATIONS

“I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)

Christ’s light shines through those who answer His call. In marriage, couples reflect that light by the way they love, forgive, and serve one another. Their faith-filled witness creates a home filled with love and grace, drawing others closer to Christ. How does your marriage reveal God’s love to those around you? 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.

GOOD FRIDAY is an obligatory day of fasting from age 18 until 59. When fasting, a person is permitted one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat and binding from age 14 onwards.
 - USCCB

LENTEN IDEAS: + Do Your Own Stations of the Cross by composing your own personal meditations. + Tithe Time. Make an effort to make a weekly service commitment during Lent – to your parish, at a nursing home, or local outreach.

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/bishop-abuse-reporting>

CATHOLIC TRIVIA—JUST FOR FUN
 Answer: The wife of Pontius Pilate. ©LPi