



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

Music Director: George Stefan

CSA Advisor: Devan Larson

Finance Council: Marilis Bennett, Jen Tucker,

Fr. Ross Tozzi

Pastoral Council: Marilis Bennett, Cynthia Klepaski, Ritchie Musick, Sean & Jen Tucker, Mary Pat Boger

St. Mark Sunday Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass: 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC)

Campus Mass for Catholic Student Association (CSA):

*Held in Upper Lola Tilly Building on UAF campus
at end of August with start of UAF Fall Semester.*

See our website for information: www.stmarksuaf.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/16: 10 AM – 12N Altar Server Training at SHC

5/16-24: Novena for Healing – [see Diocesan website](#)

5/22: Family Formation & Third Order 6 PM at Monroe

5/24: PENTECOST SUNDAY

5/24: 11 AM at SHC – **Confirmation** w/ Bishop Steve

6/7: Corpus Christi Procession

JULY: Summer Oratory, Camps, & Mission Dates

**From the desk of Michael OIsta, S.T.L.
Director of Faith and Family Formation:**

The last Feast and Faith before the summer will be on
Tuesday, May 26th @ 5:30 at Miguel's!

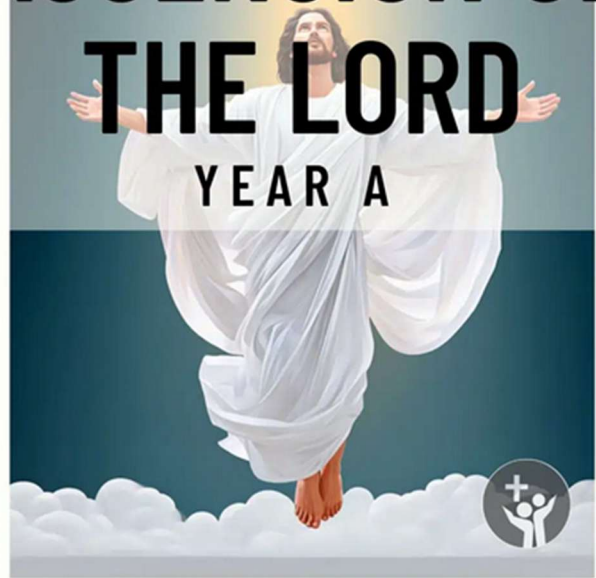
Bishop Steve will be our guest again for this final talk, I look forward to gathering the young adults of the diocese again to hear from him!

Weekly Prayer of the Faithful

That we learn to pray not only in bad times, but also in good times. Pray for family, friends and those that may not treat us well.

MAY 17, 2026

ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A



First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 47:2-3,6-9

Sing praise to God as he mounts his throne.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus charges his disciples to make disciples of all nations and promises to be with them forever.

Music of the Mass May 17

196 Go Make All Disciples

515 Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning

448 You Are Near

721 At the Name of Jesus

198 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

****Mass Parts – [Heritage Mass](#) 869-876**





SUNDAY

Religious Education (SHC): Contact Mother, Way of Salvation at: servidoras@cbn.org

Young Adult Game Night: TBA in August.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: Contact Jan Fortune for info at: 43janetf@gmail.com

TUESDAY

Voices of Hope Prayer Group: Tuesdays from 6 – 8:30pm in the Community Room at SHC.

Faith Formation (OCIA): Contact Fr. Peter Bang at: pbang@cbna.org.

Young Adult Feast and Faith: May 26th at 5:30 PM. Meet at Miguel's Authentic Mexican Restaurant. Bishop Steve will be our guest again for the final talk! 3rd Thursday of the month!

THURSDAY

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 8:00 AM – 12 PM at SHC.

First Thursday Adoration of Blessed Sacrament will resume on June 4th – 8:00 AM – 12 Noon.

Voces Verbi Teens: Contact: servidoras@cbna.org

SHC Holy Hour: 7 PM on 1st Thursday every month.

FRIDAY

Voces Verbi: Return in September. (Ages 18-35).

To request Food Boxes - people may call in orders at (907) 374-0572 from 10:00–11:30 AM and pick up their food boxes from 12:15–1:00 PM.

SATURDAY

Oratory & Third Order: Contact Mother, Way of Salvation at: servidoras@cbn.org.

Altar Server Training: May 16th from 10 AM- 12 Noon at SHC in the Sanctuary. Contact SHC or St. Mark Parish Office.

SHC Confessions/Adoration: 3-4 PM

Diocesan Movie Night: Next TBD (*to be determined*)

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 or Fr. Ross Tozzi at (907) 347-3005.

Are you ready for the great Consecration this June?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will consecrate the entire nation to Jesus' Sacred Heart on June 11, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. This act of consecration dedicates its people to God, asking a flood of God's grace and Mercy.



This week we have a really special feast—the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. The Ascension reminds us that we are now the physical body of Christ on earth. Jesus could physically leave because he trusted us to be his hands and feet, his ears and voice, his heart, his very being for those who need an encounter with him. We are the Body of Christ on earth. Your challenge this week is to enter into the Sunday Eucharist more deeply, remembering that when you consume the host, Christ is dwelling in you in a very intimate way. Then when you leave Mass, find someone who needs an encounter with Christ, someone who needs to know they are loved unconditionally. Reach out and give a hug or a listening ear or a helping hand. Be Christ in the world! <https://pastoral.center>

Focusing the Gospel ...

Key words and phrases: went to Galilee, Jesus had ordered them, Go, all nations, until the end of the age

To the point: On the morning of his resurrection, nearing the end of his earthly life, Jesus orders the disciples back to Galilee where he had inaugurated his saving mission. The disciples are to begin where Jesus did, doing what Jesus did, but without geographical or temporal limits: their mission is to “all nations” and continues “until the end of the age.” In effect, then, Jesus commissions not only those first disciples but all those through the ages who come to know and believe in him. Jesus chooses to complete his work of salvation through us. We must choose to take up his Great Commission. www.stu.edu



Praying for Others

Jesus prayed to his Father, "I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours." (John 17:9)

Adult Question: Who needs you to pray for them this week, as Jesus prayed for his disciples?

Child Question: Who will you pray for this week?

<https://pastoral.center>

HEALING NOVENA

This month the Diocese of Fairbanks will be having a Novena for Healing offered for all those who are in need of healing. We invite all the faithful to gather and join us in praying the novena. Starting on May 16th and continuing through May 24th, videos will be posted on our diocesan Facebook page and YouTube channel of the novena. Booklets are available at the parishes, or they can be downloaded from our diocese website. Please join us for a few moments each day to pray for healing throughout our diocese.



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: If cremated, must a Catholic be buried?
(Answer on last page of bulletin.)

Catholic Answer

Question:

What Does “He Descended in Hell” in the Apostles’ Creed Mean?



Answer: Jesus’ descent into hell means that Jesus “sojourned in the realm of the dead prior to his resurrection” (the *Catechism* 632). Like all men, Jesus experienced death, and thus his soul joined others in this realm. But as the *Catechism* points out, “he descended there as Savior” (CCC 632) and preached the good news to the spirits imprisoned there (1 Pet. 3:19).

Does this mean Jesus descended into hell to deliver the damned? Does this mean Jesus destroyed the hell of damnation? No. Scripture often uses the term *hell*—*Sheol* in Hebrew and *Hades* in Greek—to refer to the [abode of the dead](#), which consisted of both the righteous and the unrighteous who were deprived of the vision of God.

But this doesn’t mean their experience of that realm was identical. Jesus made this clear in his parable of the poor man and Lazarus (Luke 16:22-26). The Jews affectionately referred to the righteous abode as “Abraham’s bosom.”

It is these spirits to whom Jesus preached the good news. “It is precisely these holy souls, who awaited their Savior in Abraham’s bosom, whom Christ the Lord delivered when he descended into hell” (CCC 633). www.catholic.com

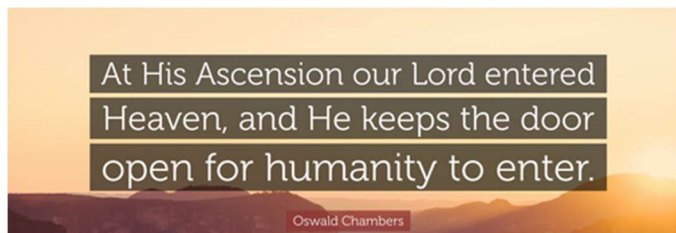
Check out Diocese of Fairbanks Publications – **Missionary Disciples and The Alaskan Shepherd** - on Diocese of Fairbanks website: <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/> and keep updated on activities on their Facebook page.



Stay connected with us for free!
Text ‘SMDOF’ to 84576 or
connect with us online at

SACREDHEARTAK.FLOCKNOTE.COM/STMARKPARISH

“I am going to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.” ~ John 20:17



“We do not want a church that will *move with* the world.
We want a church that will *move* the world.
~ G.K. Chesterton ~

(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)

I’M WITH YOU



One of the fun things toddlers and very young children do is try to convince you that they aren’t lying — you’re just misunderstanding reality.

“I am NOT hitting you,” they’ll insist as they pummel your leg with their little fists, staring you down with the crazy-eyed glare of a person who really believes they can make something true if they say it loud enough.

It reminds me a little of Jesus, to be honest. “I am with you always!” he assures us...as he’s literally leaving.

We know that Jesus is not a crazy-eyed toddler. He’s telling the truth. So, what in the world does he mean?

“I am with you.” We say this to one another when we want them to know they have our support, often in a battle they must fight alone.

“I am with you.” My mother-in-law said this to me over FaceTime during the pandemic shutdown as I was mourning a miscarriage. We were dozens of miles apart and quarantined.

“I am with you.” I say this to my children when they are upset, frightened, melting down, sick — when they are caught in the throes of a bad experience I cannot personally climb into and stop.

I am with you. None of these promises are false. None of them are lies.

And neither, really, is the toddler lying. She’s simply experiencing reality as a person who can’t differentiate feelings from actions, will from choice. “I’m not hitting you!” she cries, when what she means to say is: “This anger is stronger than I am.”

How many times have I pounded my own fists, crying, “I have faith!” when what I mean to say is, “My faith is failing. Where are you?”

I am with you.

This is the answer that always comes. The answer that will always come. Reality is like that. It exists, unchanging, whether we believe it or not.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – May 7, 2026 ©Lpi

Never stop praying for men to enter the priesthood!
St. John Vianney, pray for them!





STEWARDSHIP REPORT

May 10: \$ 712.25

Total Collection (7/2025-6/2026): \$ 58,792.78

Parishioner Count: 93

Thank you again for your continued generosity!

Good Stewards

“For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.” 1 PETER 3:17

The old line says, “if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don’t get the result we anticipated or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times, we may respond negatively and ask, “Why me? I did everything right!” Here’s the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for his stewards. www.camdendiocese.org



Pope Leo XIV’s Monthly Prayer Intention for May 2026

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Pray for the Church - Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Steven Maekawa, OP, Rev. Ross Tozzi, Dcn. Warren Lucero. and priests and religious within our diocese.

Pray for:

The strengthening in faith of all who are afflicted in body, mind, and spirit.

Teens graduating from High School and their families. The safety of all travelers within our state.

Individuals who are homebound, hospitalized, or sick, and their caregivers and family members.

For our departed and their families.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA—JUST FOR FUN

Answer: *This is an emphatic yes!*

Cremated or not, a Catholic must be buried in a cemetery – a place set aside specifically for this purpose. Ashes may not be kept in the home of a loved one, divided up among loved ones, put into jewelry, cast into the sea, or otherwise dispersed in nature.

Bodies or ashes may not be buried on private property or other places not set aside as cemeteries. These actions disrespect the body and, for the reasons stated above, the body should receive due reverence as an integral part of the person.

DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

The diocese has two positions they are hiring for:

- (1) **Accounting Assistant/Donations Processing Clerk**
- (2) **Controller.**

If you know anyone that may be interested, please direct them to the Diocesan website <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings> for job description or contact HR through email humanresources@cbna.org.

VOCATIONS

“All things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.” (John 17:10)

Jesus invites us into a profound sharing of His life and mission. Those called to priesthood and consecrated life participate in this intimate union, offering their lives so that Christ may be glorified in the world. Pray for openness and discern God’s invitation in your life. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office (907) 374-9504 or via email: vocations@cbna.org. Check out www.facebook.com/FairbanksVocations.



Knights of Columbus

Bishop Kaniecki Council 13566 Sacred Heart Cathedral

Baby Bottle Drive is taking place at Sacred Heart Cathedral that Benefits FYNDout Free Pregnancy Center. Help by filling a bottle with spare change, dollars or checks until Father’s Day weekend. Drop in the basket in a baggie or envelope sealed and added: Knights of Columbus for FYNDout Pregnancy Center. Return to church and put in a basket on Father’s Day and we will make sure to get it to them – 6/21.



Corpus Christi PROCESSION 2026

We invite all to participate in the Eucharistic Procession for *Corpus Christi* going from Sacred Heart Cathedral to Immaculate Conception

SUNDAY JUNE 7TH
2:30pm

Start: Sacred Heart
End: Immaculate Conception

If you or your parish group would like to volunteer to set up one of the Benediction Altars please contact the ICC parish office. 907-452-3533

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>