



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.

St. Mark 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
Fall & Spring Semester

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

PASTOR

Fr. Ross Tozzi: rtozzi@cbna.org Ph: 907-347-3005

DEACON

Rev. Dcn. Warren Lucero

PARISH OFFICE: ph: 907-374-9564

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

7/26-31: Popular Mission (All ages)

8/2: The final Young Adult Summer Activity will be going to the **Tanana Valley State Fair** on Sunday, Aug 2nd! *Please visit the Diocesan Website to register for free tickets and get details on the meetup time. Must be a young adult ages 18-39.*

8/18: First Day of School for FNSB

8/19: First Day of School for Fairbanks Catholic Schools



VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! – Four Cardinal Virtues

Mini Explanation –The word “cardinal” means “hinge” in Latin. The role these virtues play in the moral life is somewhat like the metal pieces that connect a door to its frame, permitting it to smoothly swing open and shut. The cardinal virtues are also known as *natural virtues*, or the *human virtues*, because they govern our actions towards ourselves and others. We can grow in the cardinal virtues by our own efforts to consciously develop them, but they can also be infused into our souls more deeply by God's grace. Each virtue governs a particular aspect of the human person. Can you name them? (Answers on back page.)

ascensionpress.com

JULY 26, 2026

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



First Reading: *1 Kings 3:5,7-12*

Solomon pleases God when he asks for a wise and understanding heart to better govern the people.

Responsorial: *Psalm 119:57,72,76-77,127-130*

The law of the Lord is more precious than silver and gold.

Second Gospel Reading: *Romans 8:28-30*

God chose us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13:44-52*

Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven.



Music of the Mass July 26

308 In This Place

631 God of Day and God of Darkness

437 For You Are My God

577 Sacred Silence

445 How Can I Keep From

Mass Parts – Heritage Mass 869-876

CATHOLIC TRIVA JUST FOR FUN:

Question: What is the difference between
“tradition” and Tradition”?
(Answers on back page.)



SUNDAY

Summer Park-A-Palooza: 10 AM – 12:30 PM sponsored by St. Nicholas Catholic Church Catholic Moms Group. Contact April at 907-347-1357 for more information.

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: 1st Monday of the Month from Sept-June. 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.

Young Adult Feast and Faith: 3rd Thursday of the month September – May.

FRIDAY

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 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

SATURDAY

SHC Confessions/Adoration: 3-4 PM

Young Adult Summer Activities: **Tanana Valley State Fair – Saturday August 1st!** Email faith@cbna.org for more info!

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, & Marriage:

Contact the Parish Office at 907-374-9544 for information on instructions or Fr. Ross Tozzi at rtozzi@cbna.org or call (907) 347-3005. Contact Fr. Ross *six (6) months prior to wedding date or call the parish office at 907-374-9544 regarding Marriage prep.*

Are You Feeling Called to Serve Our Parish?

Your parish needs you to assist the ministries on our Sunday evening at 5:30pm Mass. When we gather to celebrate Mass, we gather in a variety of ministries and roles. Baptism is our rebirth into the life of grace and into the life of the Church. First Communion qualifies members to serve at the altar during Mass by assisting the priest. There is a possibility that there will be training in the next week or two. If interested contact the SHC office (Cheryl) and give her your name and contact number.

After Confirmation you can assist as Lectors or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Join the Choir and help enhance the Mass experience by supporting the congregation in singing – “praying twice.”

Should you wish to give more time and become active in the service – please Email your name to stmark@cbna.org or talk to Mary Pat Boger after Mass.



ALTAR SERVER



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER



LECTORS



MUSIC MINISTRY



On July 26 we celebrate the feast day of Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary. Anne is the patron saint of grandmothers, since she herself was Jesus’ grandma. While many cultures around the world honor the elderly and give them the highest respect, in our own country we have witnessed the neglect and sometimes even the abuse of our elders. Your challenge this week is to be an advocate for the “wisdom people” in your life. How can you show respect for the older people in your own family, or on your block, or in a nursing home in your community? How can you support the needs of the elderly through legislation? Can you offer a smile, a greeting, and perhaps even a visit with an elder who is lonely and gets few visitors? <https://pastoral.center>

Commitment

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (Matthew 13:44)

Adult Question: What would you be willing to "sell," or do without, in order to achieve your dreams for yourself or your family?

Child Question: What good thing do you want so much that you would give up something else to get it?

<https://pastoral.center>

Volunteers Needed for The Fair—August 8th

April Smith is the director of **Right to Life Interior Alaska**. Every year this organization runs a booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair to educate the public about abortion, euthanasia and other life issues. *Right to Life Interior Alaska is a small organization and has no employees and no office.* They are just a small handful of dedicated volunteers. This year they are asking each church in town to choose a day and commit to providing 6 volunteers to cover 12pm-10pm on that day. Volunteers sit in the booth and encourage people walking by to sign up for a giveaway raffle and to look over the educational information on the tables. Catholics generally make up a good portion of our volunteers thanks to the church's strong pro-life teaching.

St. Mark Parishioners can go to the link below and sign up if you felt the calling and have the time to help out. Sacred Heart Cathedral has volunteered to cover the Right to Life Booth on August 8th at the Tanana Valley Fair. Volunteers are needed to sign up. Please use this link: <https://signup.com/go/EoGQcvD> to choose a time to volunteer.



Thank you to all who pitched in to help make the Diocesan summer programs a success. Participants of religious education and summer diocesan programs are more likely to have stronger faith as they age when they see adults set an example for them by participating in church events and prayer at home!



Save the Date!

ICC Farewell party for M. Salvation to wish her well in her next mission assignment – **Saturday, August 8th at 5pm**

“Cheerfulness prepares a glorious mind for all the noblest acts.”
~ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



“I will never forget you”
IS 49:15

Pope Leo XIV has chosen this theme for today as we celebrate **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.**

(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)

CHOOSING HEAVEN



My children often ask me questions about heaven. What does heaven look like? Is there nighttime in heaven? Do you get hungry in heaven? Are there oceans in heaven? Will we feel bored in heaven?

My answer is almost always the same: “I can’t tell you for sure.” I guess I didn’t realize how little we actually know about heaven until I had kids who were obsessed with hearing the details.

But accepting human ignorance is liberating in a way, because it allows me to see clearly — and cling wholeheartedly to — the three things I do know for sure: Heaven is where God is, and hell is where He isn’t, and it’s completely my decision where I want to be.

The choice, you see, is everything.

We need to pay attention to how Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven in his parables. It is, he tells us, a treasure — but a treasure buried in a field owned by someone else. It is a beautiful pearl — and a very expensive pearl. It is a bountiful yield — one which must be carefully, even painstakingly sifted through.

It’s so easy to imagine the delight of the man who finds the treasure, who encounters the pearl, who hauls the bursting net aboard, just as it is easy to call ourselves followers of Christ, to hang a Rosary from our windshield and go to Mass.

It’s less easy, and a great deal more uncomfortable, to contemplate what comes next: sacrifice, the commitment, the perseverance through uncertainty.

Heaven is an incredible stroke of luck — one that requires a good deal of follow-through. We can never earn it, but we must choose it. Again, and again and again, we must choose it.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – July 23, 2026 ©Lpi



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

READINGS OF THE DAY

For readings of the day please go to: www.usccb.org



Matthew’s Gospel writings present Jesus as the promised Messiah and the fulfillment of the Old Testament. His Gospel places special emphasis on Christ’s teachings, including the Sermon of the Mount.



From Diocese of Fairbanks Fr. Edward Gorman, O.P. arrived in Fairbanks this week, coming from the Province of St. Joseph in New York. Please give him a warm welcome to our Diocese when you see him!

Michael Olsta has applied to and been accepted by the Western Dominican Province. His last day with the diocese will be Tuesday, 4 August 2026. Michael has been with the diocese since June 2024. We are grateful for all he has done and send him with our prayers and best wishes as he begins formation. He will enter the canonical novitiate on 18 August 2026. During this time, his communication will be very limited. *If you'd like to send encouragement, snail mail can be sent to St. Dominic Priory 2390 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.*



From Diocese of Fairbanks Vocations:

Please pray for **Mr. Solomon Youngbird** as he deepens his discernment and along with fellow class members as they answer the call to diocesan priesthood at Mount Angel Seminary. Continue to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more workers into His vineyard. Please keep them in your prayers during this first stage – known as “propaedeutic stage.”

Diocesan Employment Opportunities!

+ Safe Environment/Victim Assistance Coordinator: full-time with benefits or part-time (minimum 20 hours/week).

+ Maintenance Technician – full-time with benefits.

+ Director of Faith and Family Formation - full-time with benefits.

Go to <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings> for more details or email humanresources@cbna.org. If you know anyone who might be interested, please pass along this information.

SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS YOUR HELP



Consider helping the Immaculate Conception Church Soup Kitchen. They need volunteers for their weekend meal service – Saturday and Sunday. Prep begins at 12Noon and walk-up meal service goes from 1-3PM. Consider giving your time, material, or monetary donations. For more information or to sign up, please contact Samantha Reynolds at: Samantha-reynolds@outlook.com Pray for the work they do in their ministry.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

As we pray for peace and an end to violence throughout the world, we as a parish community will pray the Prayer to St. Michael after Mass. The prayer will be prayed after the Final Blessing and before the Recessional.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



FULTON SHEEN CATHOLIC BOOKSTORE is now open in Murphy Hall at Immaculate Conception Church.. Contact the ICC Parish Office for details at iccreceptionist@cbna.org or 907-452-3533.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

July 19: \$ 10,731.60

Parishioner Count: 121

Total Yearly Collection (7/2025-6/2026): \$ 11,944.60

Thank you for your generous support & prayers!



Pope Leo XIV's Monthly Prayer Intention for July 2026

For respect for human. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Please remember in your prayers – All living in areas of conflict; Men and women serving our country to protect others; the end of violence; Wisdom and sound judgement used by those in leadership; Educators who will be returning to work in rural Alaska – give them patience, wisdom, and strength to face the challenges they will face in the new school year.

Pray for all who are sick or hospitalized.

Pray for the Dead - Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. (*Fr. Tom Gallagher, SJ – 6/15/26 – spent 49 years ministering in Alaska*)

VOCATIONS

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field."
(Matthew 13:44)

Discernment is the process of discovering the treasure God has placed in your life, your unique calling and purpose. It requires prayer, reflection, and openness to God's guidance, helping you recognize where He is leading you, whether to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony. Take time to seek His wisdom, trusting that the joy of finding His treasure is worth every effort. If you feel a stirring desire to follow God's path, 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.

Please pray and fast for these intentions for our families in July.

- ~ Our parish families and the growth of our church.
- ~ The sacred gift of life from God.
- ~ Healing of the sick in our community.
- ~ Peace and freedom – may we never take either for granted and work diligently towards both for all people.
- ~ The safety of all traveling and enjoying vacations.

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>



To support those who have experienced devastation by the earthquakes in Venezuela, funds can be donated to [Catholic Relief Services](https://www.catholicrelief.org/). At this time, it has been reported that the number of known dead has risen to 5,000 victims; 17,000 people are wounded, and 21,120 are living in shelters. Catholics from around the world have joined in efforts to assist Venezuelans struggling.

"Let us all join in prayer that Our Lady of Coromoto, patroness of Venezuela, will comfort and protect her children and that compassionate international assistance will arrive swiftly."

Neighboring Parish Mass Times

Sacred Heart Cathedral ~ Ph. (907) 474-9032
1300 Peger Rd (Corner of Peger Rd & Airport Way)

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Spanish Mass at 1:00 PM

(Moving to 1:30 beginning July 1st.)

***Weekday:** Mon-Fri: 7:30 AM

Saturday 9:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM



Immaculate Conception

Ph. (907) 452-3533

2 Doyon Place

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Latin Rite Mass 6 PM – TBA

Sunday: 7:30 & 9:30 AM, 12:00 PM

***Weekday:** Mon – 8:30 AM

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri: 12:10 PM



Saint Raphael

Ph. (907) 457-6603

1125 Old Steese Highway (Intersection Hagelbarger & McGrath Rds.

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM

***Weekday:** Tue, Th: 9:30 AM,

Wed 5:30 PM/Fri: 6:00 PM



Saint Nicholas, North Pole

~ Ph. (907) 488-2595

707 Nicholas Dr. (off the Richardson Hwy)

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 & 12:00 PM

***Weekdays:** Mon, T, Th, Fri: 9:00 AM, Wed 7 PM



St. Mary's of the Lake Mass at Harding Lake - (located on the south side of the lake) Sunday, at 3:00 PM until September 6, 2026
Covered by Saint Nicholas, North Pole.



masstimes.org
MASS TIMES FOR TRAVEL

MassTimes Ministry is an app available to help find churches while traveling. Find a Catholic Church at your destination. www.masstimes.org/location

VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! – Four Cardinal Virtues

Prudence (relates to our intellects, helping us know the truth);

Justice (helps our wills to pursue the good);

Fortitude (governs our irascible passions, the emotions that help us face challenges); and

Temperance (moderates our sense appetites – for food, drink, and sex – with the help of reason.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA —JUST FOR FUN

Answer: Lowercase "tradition" are customs of man, but uppercase "Tradition" is the revelation of God.