



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

9/14: Feast of Exaltation of the Cross

9/19: 6 PM Catholicism in America Talk at SHC

9/20: 9:15-10:15 AM Religious Education at SHC

9/20: Catechetical Sunday

9/22: 7:00 PM St. Joseph's Men's Group at ICC.

9/22: 7-8:30 PM OCIA at SHC – Classroom 8 downstairs.

9/26: 6:00 PM Traditional Latin Mass at ICC

10/1: Feast of St. Therese, patroness of our diocese"

10/10: Annual Catholic Schools HIPOW Fundraiser

10/10: 6:00 PM Traditional Latin Mass at ICC

10/13: 7:00 PM Chiara Petrillo Women's Group at ICC

10/16-18: Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat at St. Nick's

11/21: Family Day 2026 held at Monroe Catholic Schools.

The Diocese of Fairbanks would like to invite you to:
Catholicism in America: Minority to Mainstream -
Saturday, September 19th at 6 PM at SHC

As the United States continues to celebrate its 250th birthday, learn how Catholicism has helped to shape the American landscape. Join Dr. Cheryl H. White as she offers a fascinating look at how our Catholic faith has been incorporated into the fabric of the nation's history—from discriminated religious minority to mainstream society. A light meal will be provided for those attending. Dr. White has authored eleven books, and her most recent book publication is *The Shroud of Turin in the Third Millennium: Confronting the Limits of Human Knowledge*.

September 13, 2026

24TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A



First Reading: Sirach 27:30—28:9

Those who seek God's mercy must be merciful toward others.

Responsorial: Psalm 103:1-4,9-12

A song of praise to God who is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

We belong to the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Music of the Mass September 13

407 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

473 Prayer of St. Francis

403 Christians, Let Us Love One Another

698 On This Day, O Beautiful Mother

411 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mass Parts – Heritage Mass 869-876



CATHOLIC TRIVA JUST FOR FUN:

Question: Who found the True Cross?
(Answers on back page.)

September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows



SUNDAY

Religious Education: 9:15-10:15AM Begins Sept. 20th.

Young Adult Game Night: TBD

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: Sept 14th "Joan of Arc by Mark Twain. 12:30 PM at SHC. Contact Jan Fortune for info at: 43janetf@gmail.com

TUESDAY

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

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

Catholic Student Association (CSA): Adoration-6:45 PM; 7:15 PM. Mass held at UAF Upper Lola Tilly Commons.

Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA): Classes begin 9/22, at 7 PM in basement of Sacred Heart Cathedral – Classroom 8.

Saint Joseph Men's Group: 7 PM on 4th Tuesday of the month at ICC. Bring a refreshment to share!

Chiara Petrillo Women's Group: 7 PM on 2nd Tuesday of the month at ICC. Bring a refreshment to share!

THURSDAY

Voces Teens: 6-7:30 PM. Youth ages 13-17.

Adoration of Our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament: 8 AM – 12 Noon at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Drop in and spend time keeping Jesus company.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 1st Thursday of the month from 7-8 PM.

Fairbanks Catholic Engaged Encounter Team: Monthly meeting on 1st Thursday of the month; 6-8 PM in SHC Community Room. Open to all couples. Marriage enrichment starts at 6:30 PM.

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.

Voces Verbi: 6-8 PM Young Adults ages 18-30.

Oratory: 2nd and 4th -1-3 PM at ICC. Ages 6-17.

SATURDAY

Altar Server Training: TBA.

SHC Confessions/Adoration: 3-4 PM

Young Adult Activity: TBA

SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP

Catholic Engaged Encounter Retreat: Oct. 16-18 at St. Nick's.

Silent Ignatian Retreats: Oct. 1-4 for Men; Nov. 5-8 for Women.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, & Marriage: Contact the Parish Office at 907-374-9544 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.

SAINTS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL – St. Thérèse of Lisieux:

The first semester away from home for college students can be crushing. A student's homesickness is a grief for the life they are leaving behind as they adjust to new roommates, schedules, and responsibilities, all of this without the comfort of their families. While there is no official patron saint of homesickness, many saints have endured this affliction, including St. Thérèse lost her mother at a young age. This is a pattern in many saint stories: the leaving of a parent and home behind, and the longing for the deepest sense of home there is—heaven. Uscatholic.org



UAF CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION (CSA)

*A community of faith and caring;
interested in growing and practicing our Catholic faith.*

Our mission is to support students on campus who are Catholic and those wanting to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Mass will be offered on campus at Loly Tilly once a week to encourage community and spiritual growth while pursuing academic goals.

Join individuals like yourself who embrace their faith at Lola Tilly Commons every Tuesday for Adoration and Mass. Enjoy activities afterwards and learn about events available for young adults offered in neighboring parishes in our Diocese.

SCHEDULED EVENTS ON CAMPUS

Tuesday 6:45 pm Adoration/7:15pm Mass

Week of Sept 12-13th CSA plans on seeing

The Passion of Christ at the theater!

9/15: Activity will be Dancing!

9/22: Danika Talk on Gregorian Chants!

9/29: Group Dinner

10/6: Faith Formation Talk – Speaker TBD

Voces Verbi: 6:00 – 8:00 pm on Fridays

For University students and Young Adults
at Immaculate Conception Church.

Adoration – Formation Talk – Pizza Dinner – Games

Check out Hallow's new series for college students: "The Good Life" **St. Mark University Sunday Mass** is held at Sacred Heart Cathedral – 1300 Peger Rd (Peger and Airport Rd intersection. If you need a ride, talk to fellow CSA members or contact stmark@cbna.org 24 hours in advance so we can arrange a ride. Consider participating in our Mass Ministry as an Altar Server, Lector/Reader, Extraordinary Minister, or Choir member! Training will be provided.



This Sunday's Gospel challenges us to treat others as we want to be treated. The example which Jesus uses to illustrate this teaching is the one of debtors and forgiveness of debt. Throughout the Scriptures, we hear God challenging us to forgive debt and give people a second chance. Your challenge this week is to focus personally or globally on debt forgiveness. If you go the local route, ask yourself who most needs a second chance in your life. Whose "debt" can you forgive? If you want to meet the global challenge, ask who most needs a second chance, or a chance to start over, in the world. Is it victims of a natural disaster? Could it be those who have suffered from political persecution? Pay attention to what is happening in the world, then choose a group or individual in need of a second chance. How can you help them get it?

<https://pastoral.center>

5 Things to Do When Entering the Church:

The Church is the House of God.

Enter with faith, respect, and love.

1. Make the sign of the cross: As you enter, bless yourself with the Sign of the Cross.

2. Greet Jesus present in the Tabernacle: Bow your head or genuflect forward the tabernacle.

3. Prepare Your Heart: speak to God in silence and ask for his grace.

4. Observe Silence: Keep silence in the church to show respect and allow others to pray.

5. Turn off or silence your phone: Remove distractions so you can focus on God's presence.



(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)

MERCY YOU CAN FEEL



“You qualify for forgiveness,” I heard the woman on the other end of the phone tell me, and I surprised myself by starting to weep.

I had called the hospital system’s financial services department to set up a payment plan on a balance I owed after having some unexpected scans and tests. I was hoping to minimize the dent our family’s savings took — transform one devastating wallop into a series of more easily absorbed blows, so to speak.

Imagine my surprise when I realized the hospital was pulling its punch. If you have ever had a financial debt forgiven, you know the relief that came over me in that moment.

It wasn’t until a little later that the guilt set in. I know so many people who have medical debt. Why was I able to get out of paying, and they were not?

But the cold, hard truth is that I didn’t “get out” of anything. My insurance, for which I pay, had given the hospital enough money to cover the true cost of the procedures. That balance would merely have increased the hospital’s profit.

Make no mistake: capitalism does not forgive.

If you describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation to someone unfamiliar with theology, chances are they’ll think God is a chump. “You get to go in, say you’re sorry, and leave — and everything’s just fine?” someone once asked me in disbelief.

Well, yeah. That’s forgiveness.

Real mercy cannot be budgeted. It must be given recklessly, extravagantly, against all reason. It must cost the giver. It must scandalize any accountant worth his salt. And no one “qualifies.”

If I can’t wrap my head around the idea, it might mean I’m stuck in a for-profit paradigm of justice. It might just mean that I need to engage more in real mercy. Mercy I can feel.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – September 10, 2026, ©Lpi

FORGIVENESS AND MERCY

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21–22)

Adult Question: When someone hurts you, how do you forgive them?

Child Question: When have you forgiven someone who treated you unfairly? <https://pastoral.center>

Spiritual Exercises SILENT IGNATIAN RETREAT



Upcoming dates

FALL DATES

Oct 1-4 for MEN
Nov 5-8 for WOMEN

SPRING DATES

Feb 25-28 for MEN
Mar 4-7 for WOMEN

COST: \$250

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Questions/Contact

Jesse Vorves (for Men's retreat) 907-482-0098
Sydney Larson (for Women's retreat) 651-414-1822

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola help to grow more deeply in the spiritual life by showing how to overcome oneself and to conform to the will of God.

iccfairbanks.org/se





Run for the Roses

HIPOW

57TH ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER

BOILEAU HALL, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

WE NEED YOUR HELP! FIND OUT MORE SIGN UP HERE

Volunteers

WWW.CATHOLIC-SCHOOLS.ORG/HIPOWVOLUNTEER.HTML

RAFFLE TICKETS & SEATING ON SALE NOW: HIPOWAUCTION.COM OR 907-313-3291



CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

WHAT: Retreats led by local Catholic couples and priests sharing their experiences of living out the values of a sacramental marriage to help couples prepare for a marriage that can last.

WHEN: 16-18 October 2026
5-7 February 2027
15-17 October 2027

WHERE: Saint Nicholas Catholic Church

COST: \$260 per couple

REGISTER: fairbanks@engagedencounter.com

FOOD ITEMS DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SOUP

KITCHEN: Bottles of water, coffee, sugar, grocery bags, fruit, protein bars, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly, apple cider packets. ICC kitchen can be reached via e-mail at iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org, or by phone at 907-452-3533.

Dost thou wish to receive mercy? Show mercy to thy neighbor.

~ St. John Chrysostom



2026 FALL Fundraiser

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

6PM – 8PM

Guest Speakers from CoreNet
Alex Hettinga & Rob Denler

Theme: **"LEGACY"**

"As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him."
- Psalm 103:13

8 STAR EVENT CENTER
1485 30TH AVE. FAIRBANKS, AK (The Old Friends Church Building)

Reserve your seat by registering today!
Scan QR code
or visit our website FYNDoutFree.com



Mission Alaska:
To the Ends of the Earth
Coming in December
It is a new
Dominican documentary
giving a glimpse into the
Catholic Church in the Last
Frontier. You can check out
a trailer on the Dominican
Friars website: opwest.org.

*"The things that we love
tells us what we are."*
~Thomas Aquinas

STEWARDSHIP REPORT



September 6: \$ 1,205.00

Parishioner Count: 104

Total Yearly Collection (7/2025-6/2026): \$ 20,046.00

For the month of September, 3% of our donations will go toward the ICC Soup Kitchen.

Thank you for your generous support & prayers!



Pope Leo XIV's Monthly Prayer Intention for September 2026

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

PRAY FOR

- † ...the Church – Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Steven Maekawa, OP, Rev. Ross Tozzi, and all pastors, deacons, and religious in our diocese.
- † ...the recovery of villages in Alaska devastated by fires and storms.
- † ...the sanctity of life of all and the unborn children.
- † ...parishioners who are sick, homebound, or lonely.
- † ...for the souls of the faithfully departed.

VOCATIONS

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."
(Matthew 18:35)

Priests bring Christ's mercy to the world through their ministry, comforting families at funerals, anointing the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, and offering guidance and forgiveness through the sacraments. How is God calling you to share His mercy in your life, and could He be inviting you to serve His people as a priest? 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.

Pray for our Priest: "God, help them to navigate whatever challenges they encounter. Be their comfort and my rock. Guide them to do Your will and be an instrument of your peace today and each day. Amen."



Feast Days for the week of September 13th:

Sept. 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross: "To follow Christ we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross."

Sept. 15: Our Lady of Sorrows was given to our Blessed Mother to honor the suffering she endured throughout her life, and the faith and courage which she displayed when faced with grief.

Sept. 16: St. Cyprian: "Whatever a man prefers to God, that he makes a god to himself."

Sept. 17: St. Robert Bellarmine: "Be wise my soul, and trust in God alone, cling to Him alone, and cast all your cares on Him alone."

Sept 20: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gón, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions: St. Andrew as the first Korean priest, and St. Paul was a lay catechist, who were among 113 Catholics in Korea who died because of the Faith.

"There is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren.

~ Pope Francis ~

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

***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, 9:00 & 11:30 AM

***Weekday:** Mon – 8:30 AM

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri: 12:10 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

Diocese of Fairbanks Employment Opportunities

+ Director of Faith and Family Formation - full-time with benefits. If you know anyone that may be interested, have them go to <https://dioceseoffairbanks.org/job-postings> for more details or email humanresources@cbna.org.

+Finance Manage Position at St. Nicholas Parish. Part-time, 15 hours a week position. If you have finance experience and would like to apply, please contact Fr. Aiden directly at 907-488-2595.



The annual FAMILY DAY is coming up on Saturday, November 21st, and registration is open! This event is open to all the parishes in hopes that many of the Catholic faithful of Fairbanks will be able to participate in this unique event in the spirit of Saint John Paul II.

This year there is a guest speaker coming for the event: Dr. John-Mark Miravalle, a theology professor at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, author, and father of seven. As in the past year, the Family Day will consist of a few conferences, activities for the kids and youth, lunch all together with the families, a Eucharistic procession, and the day will end with the vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King.

Although this is a simple event, we know that it will truly be a great opportunity for the families of our diocese to have a day set aside for formation, prayer, and fellowship. For more information, contact April Smith at 907-347-1357 or email: iccfairbanks.org/familyday. Check for flyers in church or on parish websites.

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: St. Helena

St. Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine, discovered the True Cross during her travels to the Holy Land from 326 to 328 A.D. According to tradition, Saint Helena—together with Saint Macarius of Jerusalem, the Bishop of the Holy Land at the time—excavated the area below the former temple to Venus, and it is there that 3 crosses were found. It was related that an ill woman was brought to the sight and was miraculously healed when she touched the cross.