



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

9/19: 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 Spirit of the Lord
is upon me... to bring good
news to the poor" Lk 4:18



Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handling on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

www.uscb.org

September 20, 2026

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



First Reading: *Isaiah 55:6-9*

God's ways are far beyond the ways of human beings.

Responsorial: *Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18*

God is near to those who call upon him.

Second Reading: *Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a*

Paul tells the Philippians to live for Christ.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 20:1-16*

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.

Music of the Mass September 13

221 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

450 Seek Ye First

448 You Are Near

694 Sing of Mary

380 Celtic Alleluia: Sending Forth

Mass Parts – Heritage Mass 869-876



CATHOLIC TRIVA JUST FOR FUN:

Question: What does the word
"Catechetical" mean?
(Answers on back page.)



SUNDAY

Religious Education: 9:15-10:15AM Begins Sept. 20th. Contact Sr. Humilde at servidoras@cbna.org.

Young Adult Game Night: TBD

MONDAY

SHC Book Club: Meets 1st Monday of the month. 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.

Family Formation Night & Third Order: 6:00 PM 3rd Friday of the month at Monroe Catholic School. (9/18, 10/16, 12/18)

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.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY – September 20

We are all called to live in service of God and others. Catechists live out this mission in a unique way, education, mentoring, and assisting their parishes with generosity and selflessness. Following Christ's example, these catechists live out this year's theme: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to bring good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18). As Christ illuminated our minds and hearts while he was on Earth, he continues to bring light and love to the world through the faithful, speaking, acting, and working through them.

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.

CATHOLIC MASS SCHEDULE ON UAF

Held at Upper Lola Tilly Building

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

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Wednesday at 8:30 AM

9/22: Faith Formation Talk w/Bishop Steve

9/29: Group Dinner

10/6: Faith Formation Talk with Mother M. Star of the New Evangelization

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

*"Our hearts were made for You, O Lord,
and they are restless until they rest in You."
– St. Augustine of Hippo*

*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 look at people on the bottom of the economic ladder with the heart of justice and mercy that God has towards them. Before getting caught up in the

seeming unfairness of the situation where those who worked longer got paid the same as those who worked fewer hours, what if we looked with compassion on the plight of those who want to work and are willing to work but don't have the opportunities that others do? The parable doesn't say the workers stood idle all day because they were lazy, it says they were idle because no one hired them. Maybe they were older, or not as physically strong, or they didn't speak the language of those doing the hiring, or there simply were too more people looking for work that day, so they waited in vain to try to earn enough to feed their families. What if Jesus was speaking to the unfairness of the economic situation that left some people out of work? This week, keep your eyes open for people who live paycheck to paycheck and for the unemployed or under-employed. Ask God to give you compassion and understanding for their plight, and to move your heart to action on their behalf. <https://pastoral.center>

The "Pro Populo" Mass (*Latin for "Mass for the people"*) is a required Catholic liturgical service that parish priests must offer for the spiritual well-being of the entire community assigned to their care.

Secular Franciscans' **BLESSING OF THE PETS** on Sunday, Sept. 27th at 11:00 AM at St. Raphael Catholic Church in the front church yard – 1125 Old Steese Highway N. Contact St. Raphael's at (907) 457-6603 if you have questions.

(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)
THE WHY



Sometimes, the Gospel takes everything you think you know about Jesus, throws it in a box, shakes it violently, dumps it on the floor, looks you in the eye and says: “Clean it up.”

And there you are, picking up the pieces, wondering how, after 2,000 years, someone can still keep you guessing.

Today is one of those Gospels. We know Jesus as a champion of the poor. We envision him as a social justice warrior. And now he’s advocating for time theft in the workplace? Make it make sense.

Well, at its heart, today’s Gospel is a story about who gets what. A story about comparison, which we are told is the thief of joy — but without comparison, nothing would ever get done. In this world, wages are set, court cases are settled, international borders are drawn, all by comparing one entity to another and evaluating that comparison to make a judgment.

What this Gospel doesn’t tell us is the “why.” The workers who labored longest in the vineyard feel cheated because those who showed up later earn the same wage. This would be egregious — unless we consider that the only criteria used in the comparison is the length of the workday’s duration. Quality and efficiency of work is never even mentioned. For all we know, those all-day workers could have been standing around fanning themselves and should feel lucky to get what they did.

“Why” is a question we ask a lot in this life. Why did my dad die? Why did I get cancer? Why did my husband lose his job? As we pick up the pieces of today’s Gospel, we should ask ourselves this: when we know what we know about Who decides who gets what, do we have to know the “why?”

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – September 17, 2026, ©Lpi

GOD’S GENEROSITY

[The landowner] said "Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:14–15)

Adult Question: What lessons do you draw from today's Gospel? How has God been generous to you in this way?

Child Question: Who is generous to you, even when you do not always deserve it?

<https://pastoral.center>

Mass Intentions

As Catholics we believe in the benefits and power of prayer. When a priest offers a Holy Mass, he prays that the graces which come from the Mass be bestowed on someone in particular. You may request a Mass for almost any need or occasion. To schedule a mass intention, contact Fr. Ross Tozzi in person, by email: rtozzi@cbna.org, or reach him at Ph: 907-347-3005. A suggested donation is \$10 or what you can afford. You are not buying a Mass – the offering supports the Church and priest.

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.

“HEART OF THE GOSPEL”
4TH ANNUAL STATE MEN’S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 25-27

MASS
PRAYER
FRATERNITY
DYNAMIC SPEAKERS
OPEN TO ALL MEN 18 AND OVER

6:00 PM SEPTEMBER 25 - NOON SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
@ ST. THERÈSE’S CAMP, 7180 TWIN LAKES DR., WASILLA

COST OF ATTENDANCE IS \$125
AND INCLUDES TWO NIGHTS’
LODGING AND FIVE MEALS

SPONSORED BY:
ALASKA
KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
STATE COUNCIL

SCAN THE QR CODE, REGISTER ONLINE AT
ALASKAKOFCSTATE.COM/MENS-RETREAT
OR TEXT TOM BANICKI @ (503) 475-7062

**Coming in
December**

**Mission
Alaska:
To the Ends of
the Earth**

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.

Check out the Diocese of Fairbanks Facebook for sneak previews of interviews!

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



Votive candles in the back of the church can be lit for prayer intentions. It reinforces the idea that the candles represent our prayers before God. Beeswax symbolizes the purity of Christ, the wick symbolizes the human soul of Christ and the light if for His divinity.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT



September 13: \$ 1,260.00

Parishioner Count: 130

Total Yearly Collection (7/2025-6/2026): \$ 21,306.00

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 from floods, storms, and fires.
- † ...the sanctity of life of all and the unborn children.
- † ...pray for all inmates in correctional institutions.
- † ...parishioners who are sick, homebound, or lonely.
- † ...for the souls of the faithfully departed.

VOCATIONS

***"The last will be first, and the first will be last."
(Matthew 20:16)***

God's kingdom values humility and self-giving. Those in consecrated life embrace poverty, offering their lives in service to others, just as Mother Teresa of Calcutta did. Pray about how God might be inviting you to live generously for His people and consider learning more about this vocation. 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 20: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gón, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions (19th Century): 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.

Sept 21 (1st Century): St. Matthew, the Apostle: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Sept 23: St. Padre Pio (1887-1968): "Prayer is the best weapon we possess, the key that opens the heart of God."

Sept. 26: St. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs (3rd Century twin brothers and physicians): "It is not by our own power that we treat you, but by the power of Christ, the true God. Believe in Him and be healed."

Traveling? Mass times and locations of Catholic Churches throughout the country are available at www.Masstimes.org

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>

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

CATHOLIC TRIVIA —JUST FOR FUN

Answer: The root word, "catechesis," is from a Greek word meaning "to echo or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.