



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):

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri – 8:30 AM;

Tue at 6:45 PM Adoration – 7:15 PM Mass.

Discussion or activity following mass.

Held in Upper Lola Tilly Building on UAF campus

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

9/22-10/1: St. Thérèse 9-Day Novena

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

10/1: 6:30 PM Mass Feast of St. Therese – SHC followed by Adoration and Confession

10/2-3: 6:30 PM- 9:00 AM Rosary Congress at SHC

Diocesan wide event - see schedule in this bulletin.

10/3: 11:00 AM Pets Blessing at SHC in Parking Lot

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

What is Priesthood Sunday?

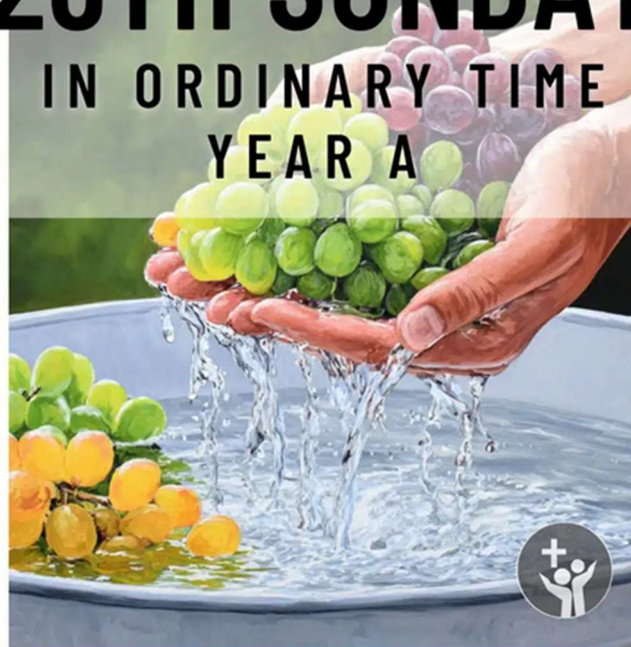
Priesthood Sunday seeks to reaffirm the priesthood of Jesus Christ and its central place in the life of the Church. This day also specifically honors priests, without whom the Holy Sacraments could not be conferred, for a single day out of the 365 days of the year during which they tirelessly serve their parishes. Celebrate and thank a priest today! Pray for your priests, pray for vocations, thank your priest, invite your priest to dinner, and/or send a card or letter to a retired priest.

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

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

September 27, 2026

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

It is possible to turn from sin and preserve one's life.

Responsorial: Psalm 25:4-9

A prayer to God for mercy.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Be like Christ who humbled himself and was exalted by God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience.



Music of the Mass September 27

464 Christ, Be Our Light

664 Hosea

651 O Breathe on Me, O Breath

210 Hail, Holy Queen

640 Lead Me, Lord

Mass Parts – Heritage Mass 869-876

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN:

Question: What is the most frequently used sacramental in the entire Catholic Church (*Answers on back page.*)



SUNDAY

Religious Education: 9:15-10:15AM. 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): 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. ([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 on 907-374-9544 regarding Marriage preparation.*

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, & Friday at 8:30 AM

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
at Immaculate Conception Church.

Adoration – Formation Talk – Pizza Dinner – Games

"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible; suddenly you are doing the impossible." ~ St. Francis of Assisi

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 focuses on the difference between words and actions. Jesus teaches us that promising to do something is meaningless when it is not backed by action.

Your challenge this week is to reflect on a time when you resolved to do more to help the poor and vulnerable, but then got busy with everyday life and never got around to serving. Or think of a time when you were specifically asked to do something to help others, but said no. Then choose one action you thought of doing or previously turned down and just do it! You may find it so uplifting that you make a commitment to do it on a weekly or even monthly basis. The important thing is to act.

<https://pastoral.center>

This is the **Jubilee Year of St. Francis** and the traditional **blessing of the animals** will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday, October 3rd at 11:00 AM in the parking lot by the Mary Garden.



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.

PRAY, FAST, SACRIFICE, & AFFIRM



Without **Priests**, there is no Eucharist. Without the Eucharist, there is no Church.

(Practicing Catholic – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moment)

THE GOD OF CHANGED MINDS



I wonder what was so important.

The man gave both his sons the same order: go out and work in the vineyard today. One son said yes. One refused.

The first son doesn't show up. The second son changes his mind and does what his father asked. I wonder what was so important, that it kept the first from fulfilling his word. I wonder what was so important, that it prevented the second from committing wholeheartedly.

I have an image in my head of the sun setting on the vineyard. The second son pauses for a moment to catch his breath while his father sits at the gate, anxiously scanning the horizon. "Any sign?" the son asks the father, who, instead of answering, drops his gaze into his lap.

With this parable, Jesus acknowledges that few of his disciples can anticipate a straight path to Heaven. Most of us are destined for a few bends in the road. Most of us will suffer failures of will and strength. We will become distracted. We will become preoccupied. We will doubt ourselves. There will be so many things that seem important, and it will take us too long to realize they aren't. Once we have, we may be too proud to change course.

The shadows grow long in the vineyard. Any moment and they will give way to darkness. With its dying breath, the sun illuminates the contours of a figure making his way toward the father and son. When the figure cries out, it is a voice they recognize. "Am I too late?"

We worship the God of second chances. The God of changed minds. The God of never-too-late.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman – September 24, 2026, ©Lpi

THE CHALLENGE TO FORGIVE

A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, "The first." (Matthew 21:28–31)

Adult Question: When have your actions not measured up to your promises? What was the outcome?

Child Question: Why is it important to follow through on your promises to others?
<https://pastoral.center>

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."



"So valuable to heaven is the dignity of the human soul that every member of the human race has a guardian angel from the moment the person begins to be." ~ St. Jerome

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.

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 preview!

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES SILENT IGNATIAN RETREAT

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.

FALL DATES: October 1-4 for Men

November 5-8 for Women

Register now at <https://www.iccfairbanks.org/se> COST: \$250

Questions/Contact –

Jesse Vorves for Men's Retreat – 907-482-0098

Sydney Larson for Women's Retreat – 907-414-1822

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.

2026 Mass & Annual Rosary Congress

Sponsored by the Legion of Mary
(Continuous Adoration except During Mass)

Friday, October 2, 2026

6:30 PM Opening Mass & Exposition @ SHC

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9:00 PM Rosary in Spanish – Sorrowful Mysteries

– Hispanic Community>

11:00 PM Night Prayer – Magnificat or Holy Office

Saturday, October 3, 2026

12 Midnight Rosary – Joyful Mysteries – Filipino Community

3:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary Luminous Mysteries

– Interior Right to Life

6:00 AM Rosary Glorious Mysteries – Legion of Mary

8:30 AM Morning Prayer – Magnificat or Holy Office

9:00 AM First Saturday Mass @ SHC – Fr. Peter Bang

For questions call: Shannon Christensen 907-388-1825 or

Kathleen Frisby 907-385-7114.

Hosted by Sacred Heart Cathedral



STEWARDSHIP REPORT



September 20: \$ 739.50

Parishioner Count:

Total Yearly Collection (7/2025-6/2026): \$ 22,045.50

Thank you for your generous support & prayers!



Pope Leo XIV's Monthly Prayer Intention for October 2026

For mental health ministry.

Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

PRAY FOR

- † ...the Church – Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Steven Maekawa, OP, Rev. Ross Tozzi, and all pastors, deacons, and religious in our diocese.
- † ...the sanctity of life of all and the unborn children.
- † ...pray for all young men discerning the call to the priesthood.
- † ...parishioners who are sick, homebound, or lonely.
- † ...for the souls of the faithfully departed.

VOCATIONS

Priesthood Sunday

"Which of the two did the will of his father?"

Matthew 21:31

On Priesthood Sunday, we give thanks for priests who humbly serve God's people. Celebrate this day by writing a note of gratitude and encouragement to a priest who inspires you. Remember in prayer the priest who baptized and confirmed you. Pray for the priests in your parish and support those discerning this vocation.

Feast Days for the week of September 27th:

Sept 27: St. Vincent de Pau - "Humility is nothing but truth, and pride is nothing but lying."

Sept 29: St. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael –

Michael is depicted with the armor of a Roman general, threatening a demon or dragon with a spear. He is the prince of the Celestial Militia who fights against Satan and his legion. He is a protector of the faithful, especially of marriages.

Archangel Gabriel - represented with liturgical clothes, bears the symbol of peace and his three fingers represent the Holy Trinity. He appeared before the Virgin Mary to announce the Incarnation of the Son of God and is the celestial patron of telecommunication.

Archangel Raphael carries a pilgrim's staff and the fish that healed the father of Tobia, from the book of Tobit. He is sent to earth to alleviate pain, cure illnesses and complete trips. "In front of the Angels I will perform for you, Lord" (Ps: 138)

Oct 1: St. Thérèse of Lisieux – (19th Century French saint and Doctor of the Church.) "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses."

Oct 2: Guardian Angels – The "Celestial Bodyguard" or, the Guardian Angels, are angels who intercede for us and remain at our sides from birth until death. Like the rest of the angels, they are creatures of God. They cannot be equated with God or adored as if they were God. Like the saints, Guardian Angels are venerated.

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 Manager 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.

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 Sign of the Cross.

While we often think of physical objects like beads or medals, the deliberate gesture of the Sign of the Cross is a powerful sacramental used multiple times a day.

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>

Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen took place on September 24, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri.