

Business Ads

Oral Surgery Associates of Alaska, L.L.C.
William F. Bergeron
111 W 16th Avenue, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-561-1430

Rachel Alexander LMT
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907-310-0464

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Eagle River, Alaska 99577
(907) 694-9384

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VALLEY UROLOGY--Eagle River Office
Jeff A.Simerville MD
Adult and Pediatric Urology
689-1270 www.akvalleyurology.com

MEGAN'S TAX SERVICE IN EAGLE RIVER

Megan's Tax Service will donate \$30 to St. Andrew debt reduction fund for each parishioner's tax return filed.
694-1040.

CBL ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Sara McCormick, Owner
Payroll, Bookkeeping and Medical Billing
907-854-7882
cblaccounting@gci.net

A & A The Shop

Eagle River Mon-Sat, 8am-5p
11135 Ashley Park Ln



Anchorage Mon-Sat. 7am-5:30
48617 Old Seward

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msimpson@mtaonline.net
17209 Foothill Ave., Eagle River

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www.kelleyandcanterbury.com

HOME AWAY FROM HOME Inc. K9 Daycare & Boarding



Eagle River's exclusive Homestyle K9 care facility. We specialize in caring for your K9 just like you do at home. If your dog needs a safe, secure and comfortable place to call its own we have it!
www.K9HM.com

EAGLE RIVER BALLET

Alice Bassler Sullivan, Director
Heather McEwen, Instructor
Inquiries:
www.eagleriverballet.com
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Golden Paws Kennel



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907 622-6121
winter-in-ak@mtaonline.net

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bernie4homesak@gmail.com

EAGLE RIVER EDUCATIONAL SERVICE
K-Adult
Math, Reading, Italian
Bonnie & Michael Melielo 250-0023

EAGLE SUMMIT DENTAL GROUP
Michael Sanders, D.M.D., P.C.
Eagle River, **694-8234**
www.eagleriverdental.org

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Where Faith and Reason
Meet in the Pursuit of Excellence
Website: www.hraak.com Phone: 907-276-5822

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

Located in Eagle River, we offer Preschool-8th grade. St. John's provides children with a sound educational foundation in a loving Christian environment. For more info contact us @ 696-3920 or Visit us on the web: sjocs1@gmail.com www.stjohnalaska.org/school

Come dance with us!
Irish Dance Academy of Alaska
Irish step dancing classes for kids age 4-18 years old
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Both performance and competitive
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www.irishdanceak.com

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240 Gordy's P & H
Journeyman Plumber
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907-575-5747



CAKESUCRAVE

By Lalaine (907) 365-9883

December 2019

St. Andrew Catholic Church

16300 Domain Ln.
Eagle River, AK 99577
694-2170 phone
694-1385 fax
www.aksaintandrews.org



The Annunciation (c.1450) By Fra Angelico.

THE ACT OF HOPE

God has a great gift of grace for you! It's hope! The prayer below reminds us that with God there's no place for despair, no matter what life throws at us.

If, as Christ said, "with God all things are possible," (Matt.19:26), hope reminds us that with God's help all things are bearable! The Act of Hope prayer sums up the essentials of this grace in one tidy sentence.

O my God, relying on Your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

Hope is a virtue that focuses our desire for happiness into seeking eternal happiness with God in Heaven. In doing His will in our lives out of love for Him and for our neighbors, we strive for "life everlasting" (as the Act of Hope prayer puts it) with God in His heavenly kingdom. If we seek God's grace, through prayer and the sacraments, we have great hope, that "does not disappoint," as St. Paul put it (Rom 5:5), of sharing eternal life with Him!

As St. Paul wrote of the heavenly kingdom awaiting us, "Eye has not seen nor ear heard... what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). With hope for the next life, we are much less likely to be discouraged in this one, as we keep our eyes on our true home in Heaven! Hope is a powerful weapon in our spiritual arsenal against darkness and negativity.

Watch out for the two sins against hope, however. Don't let your emotions take you on a roller coaster ride between presumption (assuming God will save you, no matter what, and that you don't need His help) and despair (assuming God *won't* save you, no matter what, and thus that you can't ask for His help).

Remember St. Pio's famous spiritual maxim "Pray, hope and don't worry." If we can just live our day-to-day lives serving God and our neighbors with love that is its own act of hope indeed!

<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/act-of-hope.html>

Mass Schedule

Saturdays: 5:30 pm

Sundays: 10 am and 7 pm

Weekdays*: Monday-Communion Service 9 am
Tues-Fri. Mass 9 am

**Unless otherwise noted in the weekly schedule*

Holy Days: 9 am and 7 pm

Rosary—8:30 am daily, 6:15 pm on Thursday

Eucharistic Adoration—Perpetual

Sacraments

Confessions—Saturday: 3:30 or by appointment

Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of Sick--contact the office

Sacraments of Initiation--**Adults interested in becoming Catholic** --Please contact Deacon Mark or the office.

MISSION STATEMENT

As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is to build a community of Faith, Hope and Love by the way we educate, celebrate, and live as individual stewards of the many blessings of Almighty GOD. We are called to be Christ's hands and voice reaching out to embrace all who are in need, and to establish peace and justice in the Kingdom of GOD.

Pastoral Corner

HOPE

Many people think of hope as a kind of optimism, positive or wishful thinking, something that makes us feel better but actually is powerless to affect real life. As followers of Christ we ought to know that hope is *not* a feeling, nor is it an attitude like being a positive optimist; rather, hope is a *gift* that is given to us by God. It is one of the three “theological virtues”, meaning that it is a firm disposition to the good (virtue) which cannot be gained on our own strength but can only be *received* from God. Why? Because it directs our hearts and minds beyond this world. The Catechism beautifully says,

Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." (CCC 1817)

Hope is the fruit of a relationship with God which blossoms over time, the result of a lived trust in our Father even when life is painful and hard. Like a muscle which becomes toned through exercise, our capacity for hope grows as we continually live out our faith through life’s ups and downs. When times are hardest and we cannot rely upon our own strength but must rely upon God, hope is cultivated, keeping our hearts turned toward the Lord as the source of all blessings and fixing our eyes upon heaven.

This month, the Church gives us the beautiful season of Advent which calls to mind our need for a redeemer and invites us to focus with anticipation on the birth of the Christ Child. As we eagerly await the joy of Christmas, this season invites us to grow in hope through reflecting on God’s fulfilment of His promise to save us and the ultimate hope of heaven which Christ came to restore to us.

Hope is often artistically depicted as an anchor which holds the Church fast to the rock of Christ upon the turbulent sea of life. Hope keeps us from drifting when we are pulled by the changing tides and the fleeting trends of the day. If we are anchored to Christ with our eyes fixed on Heaven then no matter what storms arise in our lives we can remain steadfast, knowing God is with us till the end of time.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church beautifully sums up all that this virtue does in our lives thus:

The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity. (CCC 1818)

If we examine our hearts and find hope to be absent, then we must ask ourselves, have we grown distant from Jesus and become too busy for God? Without our Lord and the hope that He brings, the world is an unpredictable, often fearful place; if we find ourselves beset by fears, restless, or directionless, we can conclude that we don’t truly know Jesus, that we have allowed ourselves to drift from Him. If your hope is weak, I encourage you this Advent to ask our Lord to reignite this gift within your heart. Advent is the season of hope! It is the season when we recall the darkness of the world without Jesus and anticipate the great joy and glory of His redemption, His coming to find the lost, heal the wounded, and bring love to the lonely. Take time this Advent to grow deeper in relationship with Jesus Christ: make time for Adoration, spend time daily in prayer, read and reread the Gospel.

Jesus Christ is the reason for our hope! Because of who He is and because of what He did for us, Heaven is now open to us.

—Joshua Cordes
Director of Evangelization

MISCELLANEOUS

MOVING/ADDRESS CHANGES?

Are you moving or planning to move? If so, **please** let the parish office know in advance so we can change or stop mailing your offering envelopes. This saves postage.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please keep your children from scribbling in the green music issues as many parishioners donated the books in memory of loved ones. Thank you!

NEW CDS from the Augustine Institute are available on the table by the coat closet.

Sacrament Corner—Congratulations

Baptism: 10/27/2019—Joseph Paul Doshen V
10/27/2019—Sydney Jade Mihelich
10/27/2019—Lily Mae Daniels
11/24/2019—Samantha Elizabeth Williams



STEPS TO GETTING YOUR CHILD BAPTIZED AT ST. ANDREW

- Contact Deacon Mark@ deaconmark@mtaonline.net

If this is your first child to be baptized at St. Andrew you will need to take a class. Once you have received instruction your baptism will be scheduled. Usual times for baptism are during or after the weekend Mass.

Miscellaneous

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Classes for those interested in becoming Catholic begins in September. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the name given to the instruction and discernment program for those who would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the Church. The classes meet every Sunday beginning with the 10 am Mass and finish around noon. The program leads to Confirmation and reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Please contact Deacon Mark (deaconmark@mtaonline.net) or the office if you would like to learn more.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT : Help is available—Have you or someone you know been sexually or physically abused?

Contact: Office of Children’s Services 1-800-478-4444
Adult Protective Services 1-800-478-9996
STAR Standing Together Against Rape 907-276-7273
Archdiocesan Victim’s Assistance Coordinator 907-297-7786



Welcome!

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Stop by the Welcome table to register and find out more about St. Andrew Parish! You can also register online at our website www.aksaintandrews.org

Pamphlets, Flyers, Posters

Anything to be displayed in the church must be approved in the office. Please stop by the office so that we may run the items by the pastor before they are displayed. Anything that is not OK’d will be taken down. Help us assure that what is displayed is appropriate and theologically correct. Thank you!

All children must be supervised by their parents *at all times* while on parish property. As always, our ushers are on hand during Mass to render assistance.

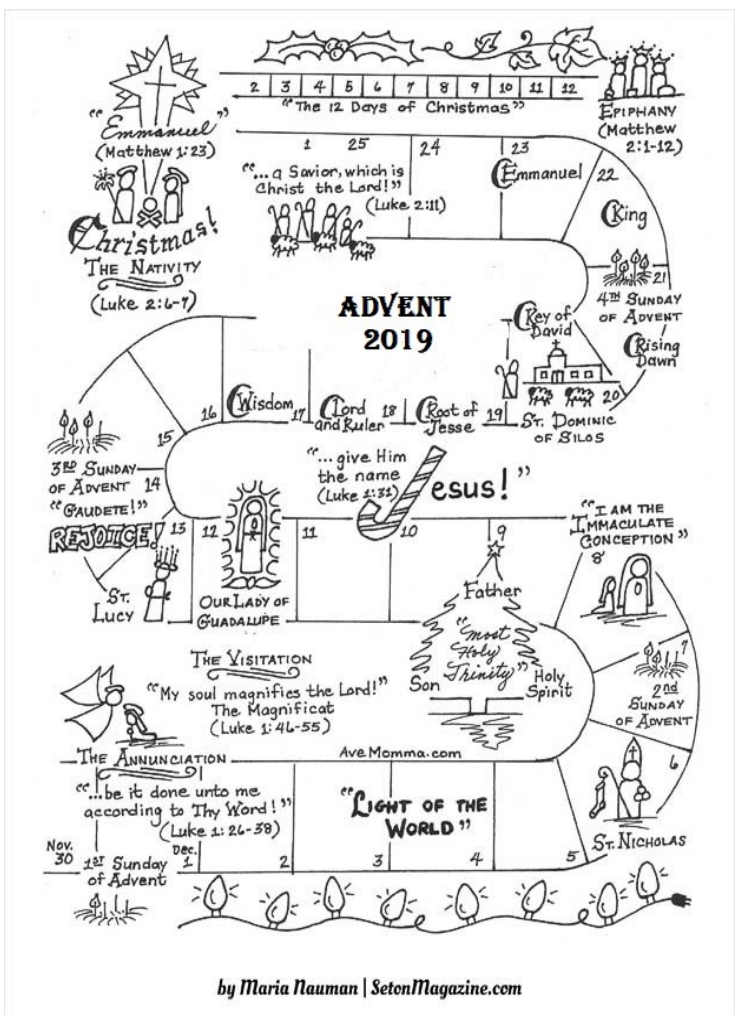
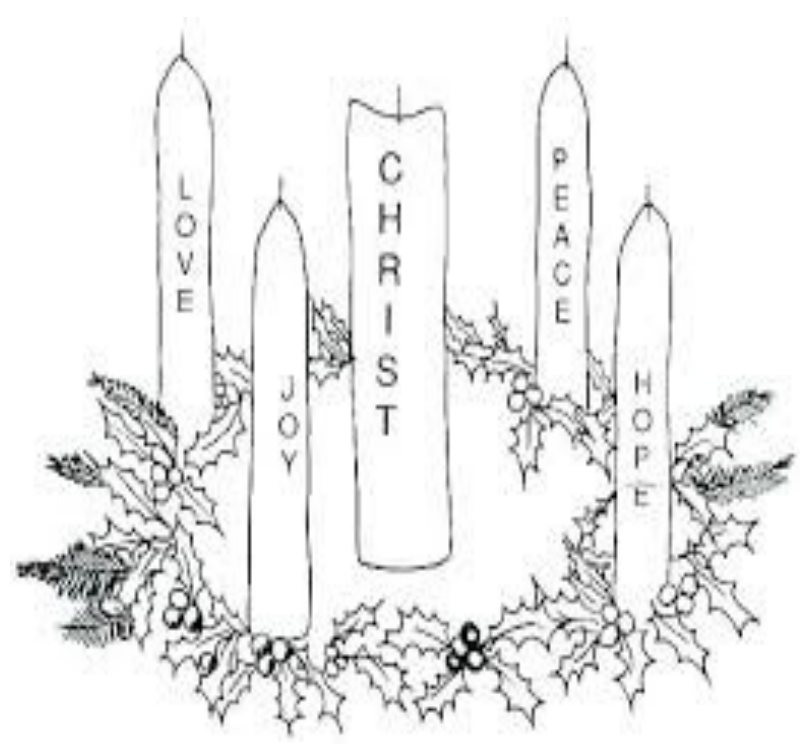
Please join us for coffee and doughnuts after Sunday morning Mass!

Comfort and Accessibility:

- Accessible Restrooms available in the halls off the narthex.
- Ladies’ and Family Restrooms on the North side, Men’s restroom on the South side.
- Seating for Wheelchairs available in the front of the Nave.
- If you have difficulty approaching the altar for communion, please tell an usher, and Communion will be brought to you.
- A limited number of assisted-hearing devices are available; ask an usher for assistance.

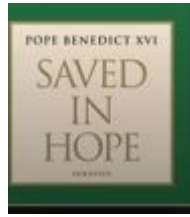
Babysitting is available during the 10 am Mass on Sundays.

Kids' Corner—Faith



Tech Corner/ Miscellaneous Information

CATHOLIC NETFLIX! —Formed.org
Your parish **has** gifted you with free unlimited access to the best **eBooks, talks, and videos** in the Church today. Register at www.formed.org



Parishioner code: **8MZ8B4**



Aluminum Cans: A large collection box can be found near the dumpster. **Note:** This box is for aluminum only, no plastic.



Egg Cartons: We save **one dozen size** egg cartons for the Food Bank. Place them (and non-perishable food donations) in the God Box by the Men's Restroom.



LOOKING FOR EWTN?
www.ewtn.com

Tune in to any of the following channels:
GCI 122 Dishnet 261
MTA-DTV 67 DirectTV 370

Copies of the EWTN programming schedules are placed in the Bulletin quarterly. EWTN Catholic television and radio has an App for the iPhone, iPad and Android phones.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

If you wish to stop getting contribution envelopes please email the parish secretary at parishsecretary@aksaintandrews.org and she will remove you from the mailings. And if you are not receiving them and wish to, contact her at the above email.

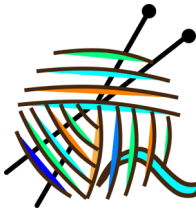
STAMPS & POSTMARKS: A box is in the coat room for all cancelled stamps you may have. They are sent to the retired SSSF Sisters in Wisconsin where they are prepared for selling to stamp collectors. The revenue they receive helps maintain their convent.

Church Ministries

Bereavement Support
Communion to the Homebound
Love INC
Elizabeth Ministry
St. Andrew Meal Ministry
Respect Life Ministry
Single Parent Fellowship
Hospital Visits
Prayer Chain

OUTREACH & SUPPORT
Parish Office—694-2170
Parish Office—694-2170
Virginia Marquez—632-0272
Jo Martin—688-4882
Barbara Peters—696-4164
Rashae Johnson 854-2997
Ann Marie Mabry— 227-4516
Joe Beaty—770-2300 694-3104
Jacki Augustine—694-4771

Because of HIPAA laws, parishioners need to notify us if going to the hospital. Remember to request the Anointing of the Sick before surgery! Call the parish at 694-2170.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer shawls are knitted or crocheted with love and compassion. The prayer shawl ministry reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as celebration and joy.

The Ministry meets the 2nd and 3rd Monday of the Month in the Ladies Dressing Room. Contact Dolores @ 726-5345.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies of St. Andrew Parish meet on the Second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am . If you are a lady of the parish (from Jr. High on up), this group is for you! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know each other and support each other.



Religious Education

Faith Formation:
We have had an excellent semester of formation. The kids are engaged and learning about the faith in new and exciting ways! We have focused on the Old Testament, done neat art projects, worked on being thankful to God for all His blessings and learned new prayers. The last day of Faith Formation for the semester is Tuesday, December 17th.

Middle School Youth Group:
We have been focusing on Jesus’ life in MSYG. We started the year talking about Jesus’ kingship, His humanity; how He had feelings and emotions just like us and also His Divinity. We have had some interactive and fun youth groups but also grew in our understanding of Jesus ‘Incarnation.

High School Youth Group:
We have had a great semester discussing Theology of the Body and the true definition of love, what we were created for and the redemption of Jesus. Our nights consist of social time, games, a teaching and small groups. We end each night with Adoration, Benediction and Confession. We have about 50 teens participating in High School Youth Group!

PLEASE NOTE: The last day of Middle School & High School Youth Group is Sunday, December 15th (This is a change from the original calendar!)

Please pray for our teens and youth. A Happy & Blessed Advent to you all!

Margaret C. Holtz
Director of Youth Ministry and Faith Formation
734.417.9059 | www.aksaintandrews.org

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

The Fishers of Men: Monday nights 7pm in the Conference Room. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke. If anyone is interested and wants more information please contact Will Goolsby at WilliamGoolsby@hotmail.com.

MOMS

MOMS Ministry invites all ladies to join our short Advent Meditation series with St. Joseph: Rejoice! By Fr. Marc Touns. This is a daily meditation beginning December 5. Books are \$10 in the church office... get them while they last! Limited supply!

We meet for three Thursdays: December 5, 12 and 19 from 10 AM to noon.

Childcare available for a five dollar donation.
For more information contact Donabelle @ 702-994-9269 or donabelle@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our spring semester study, *Exodus: Called to Freedom* begins January 15 with presentations by Dr. Tim Gray and Scott Powell. We meet Wednesday mornings 10 AM - noon beginning January 15

QUESTIONS: call Mireya Lee at 694-4443 or church office

SPRED
(Special Religious Development)
JESUS SAYS TO YOU TODAY, “I CALL YOU FRIEND”

SPRED builds a community of Faith welcoming persons with developmental disabilities, so that they may find spiritual nourishment and opportunities to give glory to God. If you know someone who would benefit from this type of formation, or you want to volunteer for this most rewarding ministry please stop in the office or contact Mattie Lemaire (parish chairperson) 726 -1865 or email: spred.saintandrew@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

Please Pray For: † Jason J† Marie W† Doris J† Oliver† Ashley † Marsha,† Matt † Li† Becky,† Travis, † Miss K, † Healing for Kim† Randy † David’s mother† Nathan † Charna† Ryan W† Jordan† M.† Those who are brain dead† Those who have died,† Those who are very ill† All those in the world† Unborn babies † Leon’s wife † ROS of the children of AbuBake al Baghdadi† N& J to uphold the truth of marriage† Son to find someone to love who loves Jesus † My daughter and her kids † Strength to fight addictions † Safe travels† The continuation of the works of Mother Theresa

In Thanksgiving For: † Answered prayers† the love of Jesus.

Financial Highlights

		St. Andrew Catholic Church		
		Offertory - October 2019		
			Building Fund	
		Offertory	& Debt Reduction	Total
Given at Masses	\$	35,947.75	\$ 11,576.00	\$ 47,523.75
Given On-line	\$	21,971.00	\$ 6,840.00	\$ 28,811.00
Earthquake Repair	\$	817.75		\$ 817.75
Total	\$	58,736.50	\$ 18,416.00	\$ 77,152.50

One Bread, One Body	Last month cumulative	Current cumulative	Goal	% of goal
Total Pledged	\$ 63,746	\$73,798	\$ 102,980	71%
Total Paid	\$ 53,635	\$63,750	\$ 102,980	61%
# of parishioners	159	192	922	21 %

LOVE INC.

Please continue to pray for OUR neighbors in need and pray that partners/donors will come forward!

19110701 PLEASE HELP our neighbor who is working little, made a terrible decision she trusted her son to pay all the bills. However, he used the money to buy drugs and he kept drawing monies from her checking account which cost \$22 on each draw.(He is no longer in the state and is in treatment.) All her bills were past due and she was able to pay everything except her ENSTAR bill. Her ENSTAR bill is now \$600. Please help her because she doesn't have any heat. She has applied for heating assistance.

WALK-INS: Please inform our neighbors whom you are serving, that we are a call center not a walk-in center. Please call: (907) 250-1735.

Many of our neighbors are in serious financial trouble! So, we pray and give them guidance if they choose it. Assisting them with rent and utilities is challenging they really need to manage their time and finances! We will continue to assist them as we are able.

NEEDS IN THE EAGLE RIVER COMMUNITY

LOVE INC--Our Mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. If you are in need of help, please call **907-726-5683**.

Our organization needs your contribution of volunteers, finances and donations to better serve our community. Can you contribute? Please call 250-1735 and let us know. www.loveincfoeagleriver.org

Please donate to the Good Samaritan Fund: \$5, \$10 or \$20 month. This money will help our neighbors with utilities or gas cards. Please mail your donations to:

Rev. Gracie Jackson
Executive Director
P.O. Box 770833
Eagle River, AK 99577

Office Location:
11940 Business Blvd.
Eagle River, AK 99577

Thank you to all who donated and assisted with the Thanksgiving Blessing Project !

Calendar

Subject	Start Date	Start Time	Location
Sunday AM Mass	12/1/2019	10:00 AM	Nave
CGS I Atrium	12/1/2019	11:45 AM	MOG
CGS II Atrium	12/1/2019	1:15 PM	MOG
Sunday PM Mass	12/1/2019	7:00 PM	Nave
Monday Communion Service	12/2/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Men's Bible Study	12/2/2019	7:00 PM	CR
Tuesday Mass	12/3/2019	9:00 AM	
Faith Formation	12/3/2019	6:30 PM	Church
Wed AM Mass	12/4/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Bible Study	12/4/2019	10:00 AM	MOG
ALPHA	12/4/2019	6:30 PM	Off Campus
SPRED	12/4/2019	6:30 PM	Church
Thursday Mass	12/5/2019	9:00 AM	
MOMS	12/5/2019	10:00 AM	MOG, Narthex
AHG	12/5/2019	4:30 PM	Narthex
CI for RCIA	12/5/2019	6:30 PM	TBD
Cub Scouts	12/5/2019	6:30 PM	TBD
BS Troop 229	12/5/2019	7:00 PM	narthex
Friday AM Mass	12/6/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
1st Friday Rosary	12/6/2019	6:30 PM	Nave
Choir Practice	12/7/2019	10:00 AM	Nave
Confessions	12/7/2019	3:30 PM	Confessional
Vigil Mass	12/7/2019	5:30 PM	
Shroud of Turin Lecture	12/7/2019	7:00 PM	Narthex
Sunday AM Mass	12/8/2019	10:00 AM	Nave
K of C Scholarship Breakfast	12/8/2019	11:00 AM	Narthex
Middle School	12/8/2019	11:30 AM	Narthex
CGS I Atrium	12/8/2019	11:45 AM	MOG
CGS II Atrium	12/8/2019	1:15 PM	MOG
High School Youth Group	12/8/2019	4:00 PM	Narthex
Christmas Nosh	12/8/2019	4:00 PM	Off Campus
Sunday PM Mass	12/8/2019	7:00 PM	Nave
Monday Communion Service	12/9/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
AK Chamber Singers Rehearsal	12/9/2019	6:00 PM	Nave
Prayer Shawl Group	12/9/2019	7:00 PM	LDR
Men's Bible Study	12/9/2019	7:00 PM	CR
Tuesday Mass	12/10/2019	9:00 AM	
CI for Catechists	12/10/2019	6:30 PM	Narthex
Knights of Columbus General M	12/10/2019	7:00 PM	MOG
Wed AM Mass	12/11/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Bible Study	12/11/2019	10:00 AM	MOG
Clare House Pick Up	12/11/2019	11:00 AM	MDR
ALPHA	12/11/2019	6:30 PM	Off Campus
Communal Reconciliation	12/11/2019	6:30 PM	Nave
Thursday Mass	12/12/2019	9:00 AM	
MOMS	12/12/2019	10:00 AM	MOG, Narthex
AHG Awards	12/12/2019	4:30 PM	Narthex
Cub Scouts	12/12/2019	6:30 PM	TBD
BS Troop 229	12/12/2019	7:00 PM	narthex
Choir Practice	12/12/2019	7:00 PM	Nave
Friday AM Mass	12/13/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Ladies Group	12/14/2019	10:30 AM	Narthex
Confessions	12/14/2019	3:30 PM	Confessional
Vigil Mass	12/14/2019	5:30 PM	
OLofG Dinner	12/14/2019	7:00 PM	Narthex

Subject	Start Date	Start Time	Location
Sunday AM Mass	12/15/2019	10:00 AM	Nave
Middle School	12/15/2019	11:30 AM	Narthex
CGS I Atrium	12/15/2019	11:45 AM	MOG
CGS II Atrium	12/15/2019	1:15 PM	MOG
Chamber Singers Concert	12/15/2019	2:30 PM	
High School Youth Group	12/15/2019	4:00 PM	Narthex
Sunday PM Mass	12/15/2019	7:00 PM	Nave
Monday Communion Service	12/16/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Simbang Gabi	12/16/2019	6:30 PM	Church
Prayer Shawl Group	12/16/2019	7:00 PM	LDR
Men's Bible Study	12/16/2019	7:00 PM	CR
Tuesday Mass	12/17/2019	9:00 AM	
Faith Formation	12/17/2019	6:30 PM	Church
Wed AM Mass	12/18/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Bible Study	12/18/2019	10:00 AM	MOG
ALPHA	12/18/2019	6:30 PM	Off Campus
Boy Scout Committee Meeting	12/18/2019	7:00 PM	Conference Room
Choir Practice	12/18/2019	7:00 PM	Nave
Thursday Mass	12/19/2019	9:00 AM	
MOMS	12/19/2019	10:00 AM	MOG, Narthex
Opus Angelorum	12/19/2019	6:00 PM	MOG
Cub Scouts	12/19/2019	6:30 PM	TBD
BS Troop 229	12/19/2019	7:00 PM	narthex
Friday AM Mass	12/20/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Blue Christmas	12/20/2019	7:00 PM	Nave/Narthex
Christmas Decorating	12/21/2019	10:00 AM	Church
Confessions	12/21/2019	3:30 PM	Confessional
Vigil Mass	12/21/2019	5:30 PM	
Sunday AM Mass	12/22/2019	10:00 AM	Nave
Brother Francis Sandwich P/U	12/22/2019	11:30 AM	MDR
Sunday PM Mass	12/22/2019	7:00 PM	Nave
Monday Communion Service	12/23/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Ladies Board Mtg	12/23/2019	6:30 PM	LDR
Men's Bible Study	12/23/2019	7:00 PM	CR
Office Closed	12/24/2019	12:00 AM	
Christmas Eve Mass	12/24/2019	6:00 PM	Nave
Faith Formation	12/24/2019	6:30 PM	Church
Christmas Eve Mass	12/24/2019	9:00 PM	
Midnight Mass/Carols Prior	12/24/2019	11:30 PM	Nave
Christmas Mass	12/25/2019	10:00 AM	Nave
Thursday Mass	12/26/2019	9:00 AM	
Cub Scouts	12/26/2019	6:30 PM	TBD
BS Troop 229	12/26/2019	7:00 PM	narthex
Friday AM Mass	12/27/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Confessions	12/28/2019	3:30 PM	Confessional
Vigil Mass	12/28/2019	5:30 PM	
Sunday AM Mass	12/29/2019	10:00 AM	Nave
Sunday PM Mass	12/29/2019	7:00 PM	Nave
Monday Communion Service	12/30/2019	9:00 AM	Nave
Men's Bible Study	12/30/2019	7:00 PM	CR
Tuesday Mass	12/31/2019	9:00 AM	
New Years Eve Mass	12/31/2019	7:00 PM	Nave

Stewardship

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Do you have crutches, braces, wheel chairs, padding, bandaging materials, or non-prescription medical supplies or ointments that you would like to donate? Contact Paula or Raymond @ 694-2415 for pickup.

The Armed Services YMCA of Alaska is looking for volunteers to serve in the military courtesy lounge at the Ted Stevens International Airport. Contact:

Sarah Riffer, Executive Director
ASYMCA OF ALASKA
PO Box 6272, JBER, AK 99506
(P) 907 552 9622 (F) 907 552 4651
www.asymca.org/alaska/

BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER FOOD OUT-REACH—In lieu of Sandwiches this month, on **Christmas Eve** Robyn will be taking prepared food to Brother Francis Shelter . The Shelter needs prepared foods—turkeys, ham, dressing, rolls, juice, cookies, gravy, mashed potatoes, or any other Christmas-type foods for their annual Christmas dinner. Please leave all donations in the refrigerator in the Men’s Dressing Room by 4p.m. on December 24. If you have any questions please call Robyn Scales at 229-8439 . Please help us to share our blessings with others who are less fortunate

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP

This group is composed of people who have suffered the loss of a loved one to suicide. It is facilitated by trained volunteers and is there to help its participants to help heal from the pain and loss. This is an open group that will meet twice a month to discuss issues and problems related to the suicide of their loved one and help them to integrate this loss into their life.

Meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M in Eagle River. Please call before first visit: 907-696-5229. There is no cost.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Communal Reconciliation—Dec 11, 2019—6:30 pm
Simbang Gabi—Dec 16—6:30 pm
Blue Christmas Prayer Service—7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Mass— 6:00 pm
9:00 pm
Midnight
Christmas Day Mass—10 :00 am
Dec 31-Mary Mother of God Vigil Mass —7:00 pm
Jan 1-Mary. Mother of God Mass—10:00 am

The church office will be closed Christmas Eve through New Years Day

THE SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITE.

You are invited to visit The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelite. We study the power of contemplative prayer and the impact it can have in our Catholic Faith. Our monthly meetings introduce the categories of prayer as outlined in our Catholic Catechism. Additionally, we learn about the prayer lives of Carmelite Saints and how we can apply their spiritual prayer paths to our daily walk with God. Learn more by calling 907-602-2411 or 907-727-3372 or email carmel907@gci.net.—Discalced Carmelite Seculars of Anchorage, AK.

TEN REASONS TO BE FILLED WITH HOPE—FR. ED BROOM, OMV

In the moment of receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, our soul receives many extraordinary gifts, among which are the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. These are like little seeds planted in the garden of our soul. However, as in a garden, these seeds must be cultivated constantly. If not, the weeds can choke and suffocate the good plants. One of the most attacked of all the virtues in the modern world is the virtue of hope. Here are ten reasons to be filled with **HOPE**

1. *The Lord is on Our Side*—God is on our side as our ultimate Victor. Saint Paul reminds us with these encouraging words: “If God is with us then who can be against us?” The most famous of all of the Psalms consoles us with these words: “The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”

2. *Prayer Power: Our Source of Strength and Hope*—When the Israelites battled against the Amalekites, Moses decided to climb to the top of the mountain overlooking the battle. Moses then elevated his arms towards heaven in prayer and intercession. At this sign, the Israelites took the advantage in the battle. However, when Moses’ arms started to droop due to weariness, the Amalekites then gained the upper hand. Seeing this, both Aaron and Hur had a plan: they would seat Moses on a rock, then with one on the right and the other on the left they would elevate the arms of Moses. This plan accomplished their goal, the Israelites triumphed and won their victory. What does this great moment from the Old Testament mean for us? The tale of Moses shows that our hope and our strength is in a fervent and dynamic prayer life!

3. *We Are Given the Strength to Get Back Up*—Have you fallen down in your life? Sinned and felt like you were limping? Get back up and don’t stay down! Only God is perfect and Scripture states that the just man falls seven times a day. St. Junipero Serra, a zealous and holy missionary expressed it clearly: “Siempre adelante, siempre adelante y nunca atras,” which in English means, “Always forward, always forward and never turn back.”

4. *The Father Always Awaits His Prodigal Son*—The Biblical passage that best expresses the above concept of forgiveness is found in Luke 15—the Parable of the Prodigal Son Despite all our transgressions and mistakes, the loving arms of our heavenly Father are always wide open to receive us in all times, places and circumstances.

5. *The Saints Offer Us Prayers, Encouragement, and Friendship*—A crushing loneliness characterizes the modern world. In truth, we are not alone because we belong to a loving family that we call the Church.

The Church is composed of three levels:

the Church Suffering — the souls in Purgatory

the Church Militant — the living who are soldiers of Christ fighting with God’s help for our salvation

the Church Triumphant — the victorious champions of Christ, whom we call the Saints.

Their prayers, their example, their love for God, and love for us is a constant reminder that we are not alone in our battle, but rather in the company of powerful friends of God. Just the thought of these spiritual champions should fill our hearts with hope for the future and hope for heaven!

6. *Divine Mercy*—Another brilliant ray of hope is the doctrine of Divine Mercy as taught by Saint Faustina Kowalska, The essential message of Divine Mercy is most consoling: Mercy is God’s primary and essential attribute.

How might we define mercy? It is God’s overflowing love which is pardoning the sinner. Even the greatest of sinners can become the greatest of saints upon one condition: that they trust in God’s infinite mercy. May we pray often: JESUS I TRUST IN YOU!

7. *Mass and Holy Communion* —God’s gifts and blessings shine down upon us like the midday sun. Of course, among all God’s blessings, the greatest is the gift of Jesus Himself in the Eucharist. He is really, truly, substantially present in the Mass in Holy Communion, in the most Holy Eucharist. Every day of our lives the “Sun of God” is elevated in the Mass in the hands of the priest and then Jesus, the Bread of Life, can descend into the depths of your heart upon receiving Holy Communion. This reality should fill you with abundant hope in this life and for eternal life. Jesus’ promise is filled with hope: “I am the Bread of life. Whoever eats my Body and drinks my Blood will have everlasting life and I will raise him up on the last day.” (Jn 6)

8. *We Have Good Samaritans on the Road of Life*—Another powerful reason for hope is the reality of the Good Samaritans that God, in His infinite goodness and divine Providence, has sent to you. Rewind the film of your life in the spirit of prayer and awareness and you will notice the many times that God placed in your path some Good Samaritan **who helped you in your need.**

9. *Our Hope in Heaven Looms Before Our Eyes*—Of great importance in bolstering the virtue of hope in our hearts is the keen and constant awareness that our eternal destiny is heaven. Jesus promises us: “I am going to prepare a place for you so that where I am you also may be. In my Father’s house there are many mansions.” Jesus has prepared a mansion for each of us in heaven.

10. *Mary: Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope*—Saint Bernard penned the beautiful prayer-poem

Ave Maris Stella . He, presents our life as if it were a sailing ship in the midst of the tempestuous sea. The sea-captain is summoned to lift his eyes on high to the star shining in the dark sky. That shining star will lead the captain, sailors, and the ship safely ashore. In the midst of the tempests of life, we are called to raise our eyes to another star in the sea—Stella Maris—that is to say “Our Lady, Star of the Sea.” It is through her powerful presence and intercession that we will all arrive home safely, at the port of salvation, which is heaven. Let us beg Our Lady for hope: “Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life our sweetness and our hope.

<https://catholicexchange.com/ten-reasons-filled-hope>

KNIGHTLY NEWS

KNIGHTLY NEWS

The 2020 Fraternal year is off to a good start and we have many exciting projects on our plate. Please take a moment to check out what we are doing and pitch in where you can. <http://council9830.com/>.

- KCIC 30 weekend of 30 Nov./1 Dec. and 7 Dec./8 Dec. also 15 Dec/16 Dec. Need help with sales after Masses. POC Will Goolsby 854-9354
- 29 Nov. Help serving breakfast @Brother Francis Friday 7am, POC Larry Ward 441-6788
- 7 Dec. Saturday Pot-O-Gold Raffle Drawing 2pm @Holy Family Cathedral. Good Luck
- 8 Dec. Sunday Scholarship Breakfasts every second Sunday of the month, we can always use your brotherly help. POC Brother Bill Galligan 903-4636.
- 10 Dec. General Membership Meeting 1900 MOG Chapel St. Andrew’s Parish. POC WGK Raymond 240-2269.
- 19 Dec. 1st degree ceremony St. Patrick’s church 1830 show up 1900 ceremony. POC WC Brother Gene Augustine 891-1036.
- Officer’s Meeting for December will be canceled due to Christmas.

2019 dues are overdue. Those that have paid and are current we thank you. Those that are not sure, a list is posted on the K of C Bulletin Board across from the men's room. Please contact the WGK or WFS and pay your dues! If you wish to be removed from our rolls contact the WGK Raymond Brady 240-2269 or WFS Al Dordan 696-7783 email: Creation@mtaonline.net for information on how to accomplish. Copies of payment/removal form letters are available. Contact any officer.

SIMBANG GABI

Literally means “evening or night Mass.” As a devotional practice, it refers to the Philippine Catholic tradition of the novena, a series of nine evening Masses usually celebrated during Advent from Dec. 15-23, in preparation for Christmas Day. (In the Philippines, the dates are from Dec. 16-24, since Simbang Gabi is held in the early morning. Here in the U.S., the practice of the Simbang Gabi has been adapted to local conditions, with the Mass being moved to the evening hours for practical reasons.) This tradition was introduced by the Spanish friars to allow the farmers to hear Mass before going to the fields early in the morning. *Simbang Gabi* is also known by its popular Spanish name as the *Misa de Gallo*, or "Mass of the Rooster."

In suburban areas in the United State and in the Archdiocese of Anchorage Filipino groups often have a traveling Simbang Gabi, with different churches hosting Mass and a reception each night. **St. Andrew will be holding Simbang Gabi on Monday Dec. 16th at 6:30 pm.** This nine-day celebration symbolizes God’s desire to be human and the Filipino’s joy for that humanness. These are festive celebrations with Christmas carols sung before Mass, faith sharing, and, of course, lots of food afterward – a sample of Filipino food and refreshments is usually served at a reception following Mass. People dress in their finest Philippine barongs and dresses. *Simbang Gabi* is a religious festival for all, Filipino and non-Filipino. But no matter the language or dress, when you pray and sing during the *Simbang Gabi*, you realize how truly universal the Christmas spirit is. This is one of many cultural activities everyone can participate in and enjoy as a preparation for Christmas.