

St. Nicholas Catholic Church

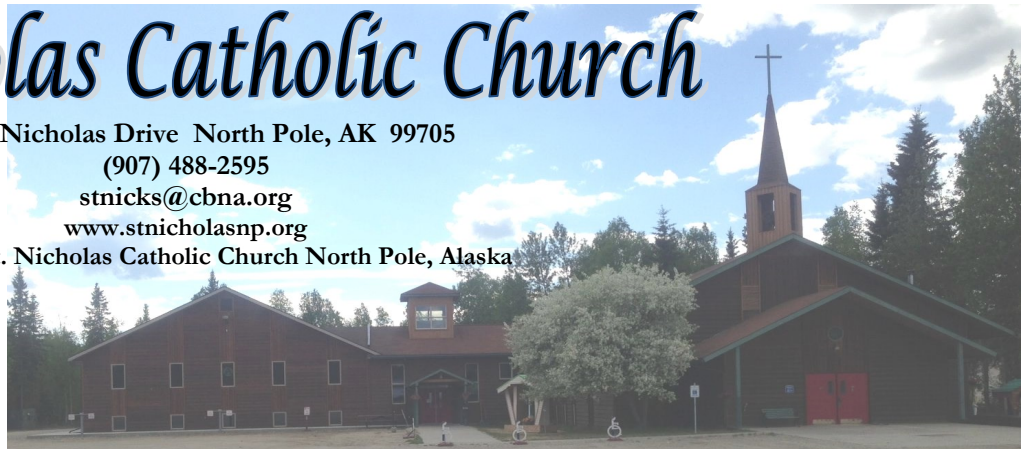
707 St. Nicholas Drive North Pole, AK 99705

(907) 488-2595

stnicks@cbna.org

www.stnicholasnp.org

Facebook: St. Nicholas Catholic Church North Pole, Alaska



Your Church

A place for everyone to gather at the table of the Lord.

Our Vision

A community centered on the light of Christ through word, works, and worship.

Regular Liturgical Schedule

Confession:

Wednesday 6 PM

Saturday 4 PM

Holy Mass Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ... 9 AM

Wednesday 7 PM

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 9 AM & Noon

Eucharistic Adoration:

(with Morning Prayer)

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8 AM to 9 AM

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Yakubu Aiden

yakubu@cbna.org

907-888-2993

Deacon: Chuck Bowman

sbow36@hotmail.com

907-687-3940

Parish Coordinator:

Katherine O'Brien

stnicks@cbna.org

Finance Manager:

Anne Armour

stnicksfinance@cbna.org

Director of Religious Education:

Heather Pariera Kimmerling

stnicksre@cbna.org

Youth Minister:

Beth Sauer

stnicksym@cbna.org

Councils

Pastoral Council:

Leigh Scarboro, Chair

stnickspsc@cbna.org

Finance Council:

Jill Woster, Chair

stnicksfc@cbna.org

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gayle Somers

When Jesus' disciples ask Him to teach them to pray, He gives them much more than simply words to say. How?

Gospel (Read Lk 11:1-13)

St. Luke tells us that once, as Jesus' disciples observed Him at prayer, one of them asked Him to teach them to pray, too.

The setting here is quite different from St. Matthew's first report on the Lord's Prayer. There, Jesus instructed the multitudes in the Sermon on the Mount (see Mt 6:9-13). However, the instruction today is very similar, repeating the core elements that appear in both accounts: communal ("our" and "us," not "my" or "me"), reverence for God, surrender to His will, dependence on His provision for both material and spiritual needs ("daily bread"), request for mercy that is to be shared with others, and protection from sin.

Then, Jesus goes on to teach the disciples that to say the words of the prayer is only the beginning. They will also need persistence when they pray, as the parable He tells them demonstrates. Why do the disciples need to know this? Why is persistence in prayer important? Why doesn't God grant answers to prayers as soon as they are prayed? When we think about it, persistence in prayer can bear much good fruit. First, it tests our faith. We ask ourselves if we really believe God hears us and cares about us. Even though this can be disturbing, it forces us to ask the right questions. Then, as we must wait and ask again, we increasingly understand how utterly dependent we are on Him in life, how little control we have. This, too, is salutary. Finally, as we repeat our prayers,



Continued on Page 2

Anne, Katherine, Heather and Beth are available to assist you during the week:

* Anne is working from home. Email or call her at 907-322-1901

* Katherine's hours are Monday through Friday 9:45am to 4pm

* Heather is out during the summer but will be checking email periodically

* Beth's office hours fluctuate - Please call, text, or email for appt, 907-978-4786

Heather's and Beth's hours are subject to change depending on ministerial duties.

If you have a question about ...	Please contact...	907-488-2595	Ext #
FINANCES	Anne	call 907-322-1901	
RELIGIOUS ED & SACRAMENTS	Heather		22
YOUTH MINISTRY	Beth		23
ALL OTHER INQUIRIES	Katherine		20

we have an opportunity to refine them if they are unfocused, self-centered, or frivolous.

However, what if we persist in prayer and doubts begin to creep in? What if we start to suspect we can't count on God? Jesus immediately addresses this possibility in what He says next: "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Jesus encourages earnest, insistent pursuit of God in our prayer life. Even though we may need to wait for a response, practicing perseverance, we ought never to doubt that God hears us and that He desires to share His life with us. Jesus uses earthly fatherhood to demonstrate this truth. Even "wicked" human fathers (in the sense that all of us are fallen, sinful people) know how to give good gifts to their children. Why do fathers know this? Because they love their children and deeply desire to provide for their every expressed need. So it is with our Heavenly Father, too: "How much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" We might be puzzled by this. "But I'm not exactly asking God to give me His Holy Spirit. I am asking for thus and so." When we must persist in our prayers, earnestly seeking, asking, and knocking, what we are really wanting is God's life in our lives or the lives of those we love. Whenever we pray for God's will, or presence, or wisdom, etc., in a particular situation, we are praying for Divine Life, and it is the special work of the Holy Spirit to communicate that life to man. That is what Pentecost was all about.

So, the lesson on prayer Jesus gives to His disciples addresses everything we need to know about it: words to use and the disposition of our hearts. Jesus freely pours all this out after one simple question from just one disciple.

Was He so glad that someone finally asked it?

Continued on Page 3



If you want to have something placed in the bulletin, please leave it in Katherine's mailbox by the **Monday prior to the weekend you want it posted in the bulletin.** Thank you!

Liturgical Ministers: August 2nd & 3rd

The August Minister Schedule is being finalized and will be available on our website soon.

<https://stnicholasnp.org/monthly-schedule-of-ministers>

SACRAMENTS AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Baptism contact Fr. Aiden

1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist contact Heather

Confirmation contact Heather or Beth

Marriage contact Fr. Aiden

Anointing of the Sick contact Fr. Aiden

Vocations contact the Chancery 907-374-9500

OCIA/OCIC contact Fr. Aiden or Heather

Children's Religious Ed contact Heather

Youth Ministry contact Beth

Day	Date	Intention	Feast Day	Readings
Monday	07/28	Healing for Aletia Atkinson		Ex 32:15–24, 30–34 • Ps 106:19–20, 21–22, 23 • Mt 13:31–35
Tuesday	07/29	Healing for Aletia Atkinson	Sts. Martha, Mary, & Lazarus	Ex 33:7–11; 34:5b–9, 28 • Ps 103:6–9, 10–13 • John 11:19–27
Wednesday	07/30	†Mavis Johnson	<i>St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i>	Ex 34:29–35 • Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9 • Mt 13:44–46
Thursday	07/31	Birthday of Amanda Hunter (Birthday is Aug. 1)	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	Ex 40:16–21, 34–38 • Ps 84:3, 4, 5–6a and 8a, 11 • Mt 13:47–53
Friday	08/01	Benefactors of the Parish	St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	Lv 23:1, 4–11, 15–16, 27, 34b–37 • Ps 81:3–6, 10–11ab • Mt 13:54–58
Saturday	08/02	People of the Parish	<i>St. Ensebius of Vercelli, Bishop / St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest</i>	Lv 25:1, 8–17 • Ps 67:2–3, 5, 7–8 • Mt 14:1–12
Sunday	08/03	Greg & Amanda Wright on their wedding day †Bob Piser	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Eccl 1:2; 2:21–23 • Ps 90:3–6, 12–13, 14, 17 • Col 3:1–5, 9–11 • Lk 12:13–21

Possible response: Lord Jesus, thank You for teaching us that our need for persistence in prayer isn't because of our Father's reluctance to answer. Persistence is for us, not for Him.

First Reading (Read Gen 18:20-32)

This is a fascinating account of the persistence in prayer that we saw Jesus urge on His disciples in our Gospel. Interestingly, in verses not included in our passage (read 18:16-19), we find that God makes a decision to share with Abraham the knowledge of His visit to Sodom and Gomorrah. He wants Abraham to know what He's about to do, because "Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by him." This tells us that what follows is very important for covenant-keeping people (like us) to understand. God wants this to be a lesson in "righteousness and justice." So, what do we find in it?

We ought to be amazed when we discover how willing God is to work with Abraham to reach a just treatment of very unholy people. Of course, Abraham knows how bad these people are, but he also knows that his nephew and family live among them. So, he begins a negotiating process that is based solely on Abraham's belief in God's good, just, and loving character. This, too, Jesus urged upon His praying followers. In great humility, yet with rock-life confidence in God, Abraham seeks to save Lot's life. Over and over, "Abraham persisted" until he and God were both pleased with the outcome. In the end, God couldn't find even ten righteous people in Sodom, so only Lot, his wife, and his daughters were saved, because of Abraham.

How many of our loved ones, perhaps living unholy lives, will be saved because we never gave up praying for them?

Possible response: Heavenly Father, help me to pray with both the boldness and humility of Abraham for the salvation of those I love.

Psalms (Read Ps 138:1-3, 6-8)

As anyone whose prayer God has answered knows, we experience unbounded joy when we can say: "Lord, on the day I called for help, You answered me." This psalm gives us words to express that joy: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for You have heard the words of my mouth." One of the great marvels of answered prayer is it reminds us that although "the Lord is exalted, yet the lowly He sees." This is a miraculous intervention of the Divine into the human, a thrill over which we ought never to recover.

Possible response: The psalm is, itself, a response to our other readings. Read it again prayerfully to make it your own.

Second Reading (Read Col 2:12-14)

Now, from St. Paul, comes the theological justification for our absolute confidence in God's unimaginable love for us, without which it is nearly impossible to be persistent in prayer. St. Paul tells us that "even when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, [God] brought you to life along with [Christ]." It was God's will that Christ should die our death in place of us, thus "obliterating the bond against us ... nailing it to the Cross." God did this for us while we were still His enemies! How could we imagine that His love will ever fail us, now that He has made us His friends?

Possible response: Heavenly Father, You have proved Your love for us beyond question in the Cross. Teach me always to pray confident of this truth.

View this bulletin online and in color at stnicholasnp.org

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

St. Nicholas extends a warm welcome to those who have recently joined our parish family, are visiting, or are new to the area.

If you are interested in our parish, please stop by the Office and introduce yourself and your family.

Registration is Easy

If you are new, please register online at fairbanks.parishsoftfamilysuite.com

If you are leaving our community, please let us know so we can update your record to keep our database current



"Are any of you sick?..."

James 5:14-15



The Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist celebrated together provide spiritual strength and nourishment to the sick.

If you are expecting a surgery, procedure or entering the hospital or nursing home for any reason, you should receive these sacraments *before you go to the hospital or nursing home.*

If you are ill or care for the sick it is very reasonable to request these sacraments.

Please contact the priest for this.



If you previously signed up for FlockNote but have not been receiving texts or emails from St Nick's, please contact Katherine to verify or update your FlockNote contact info.

To join FlockNote, text the keyword 'Nicholas' to 84576, or email Katherine with your name, cell number and email and she will get you enrolled.

Want to sign up for FORMED?

Go to formed.org/signup

*Select your parish (using zip code is easiest)

*Register with your name and email address

*Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED



July 27, 2025

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, formerly known as RCIA)

Classes will resume in September. If interested in learning more about OCIA and/ or Catholicism, please contact Heather, the DRE, at stnicksre@cbna.org or 907-488-2595, ext. 22

BIBLE STUDY / DISCUSSION GROUPS

Sunday & Monday Morning Catholic Discussions

We have paused our Sunday and Monday morning Catholic Discussions.

Date of resumption TBA.

Monday Night Bible Study

Will resume this fall.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Francisco A. & Family, Janelle Allen & Family, Lois Armentor, Aletia Atkinson, Morgan Atkinson, Fred Austin & Family, Callie Jo, C. Bowman & Family, †Patricia Barth, Christopher Brown, Katrina Butler, †Wanda Byerly, Amanda Byrd, Terry & Beverly Cannon, †Marietta Castillo, Chip Channa, Jean Erickson, Bob and Anna Fath, †Tony Fazio, Mary Fish, †Wyatt Fleming & Family, Christina Fortenberry, Frazier Family, Kat Gannon, Pat Goble, Cody Gorrell, Lois Gould, †Ashley Groholski, Michael J. Guadagnoli, †Adolfo Guadiz, †Lori Harrand, Harvey Family, Fr. Gerardus Hauwert, Fr. Joe Hemmer, Nathan Horne, John, Donald Jones, Joan Jones, Josh & Lauren & Family, Cynthia Julien, Eve Karczmarczyk, Kim, Kraft Family, Tom Laridaen, Brian Lashinski Family, †Maxwell Lashinski, †Eleanor LeBeau, †Chelsey Luker, Casey McKee, Deshawn Miranda, Moon Family, Ron Murray, Nathalie, † Ann Nickerson, Doris Noblet, Evette Odhiambo, Bob Okri, Parr Family, Heather Patterson, Tom Pendergast, Powers Family, †Sunday Powers, Gwen Price, Larry Purbis, Rob R., Tamara Renner, †Rosie Shearer, Shearer Family, Matthew Smith, †Rose Marie Smith, †Nicki Snow, Snow Family, Stephanie, Racheal Stifford, Regis Swanson, Daranee Teapthong, Yingyos Teapthong, Maria Terch, Theo, Jim Took, Mike Wehner, Betty Wells, Bridget Wells, Harper Wicker, Mary Wing, Arthur & †Rose Wood, †Kaylynn Woody, The Woody Family

Pray for: For the Holy Souls in Purgatory. For the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV. For the Most Reverend Steven Maekawa, the priests serving our diocese, for an increase in vocations for Fairbanks, For our elected officials, especially President Donald Trump. For our country. For the protection of the unborn. For those most alone. For those grieving. For a just and peaceful resolution to conflicts in areas of the world where military troops are deployed. For all our service members. For healthcare workers, and all the sick.

YOUTH MINISTRY

SNYM SCHEDULE

(St. Nicks Youth Ministry)

<https://www.stnicholasnyp.org/youth-ministry>

SUMMER SUNDAYS

7/27 - 4-6pm, Youth Room

8/3 - 4-6pm, Youth Room

Youth & Teens entering grades 7-12

in Fall 2025 are welcome to attend.

The Youth Room will be open on specified Sundays this Summer for Free Time and Fellowship.

FIRST FRIDAYS

The next SNYM First Friday will be on Aug. 8th.

Youth & Teens entering grades 7-12 in Fall 2025 are invited for an evening together on the First Friday of each month



Scan this QR Code using a smartphone camera to view the Youth Ministry webpage for information, calendar, and events.

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”
Luke 11:9-10

Vocations

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."



If you feel God is calling you to a vocation, ask for His guidance in prayer. Lord I will go where You want me to go. I will be who You want me to be. I will do what You want me to do. Just make it my will, and make it clear to me.
Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 907) 374-9504.

HAIL
HOLY QUEEN



THE HOLY FATHER'S JULY ROSARY INTENTIONS: For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

*THIS WEEK AT ST NICKS...

MONDAY

July 28

8 AM - Adoration & Morning Prayer
9 AM - Mass

TUESDAY

July 29

8 AM - Adoration & Morning Prayer
9 AM - Mass
6 PM - Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY

July 30

10:30 AM - Moms Group at Parks
6 PM - Confession
7 PM - Mass

THURSDAY

July 31

8 AM - Adoration & Morning Prayer
9 AM - Mass

FRIDAY

August 1

8 AM - Adoration & Morning Prayer
9 AM - Mass

SATURDAY

August 2

4 PM - Confession
5 PM - Mass

SUNDAY

August 3

9 AM - Mass
Noon - Mass
3 PM - Mass at Harding Lake
4 PM - SNYM Summer Sunday



Altar Flowers

To make an Altar Flower dedication, fill out a donation envelope, located on the bulletin board, and drop it in the collection basket.

Suggested donation is \$55.

Fr. Alphonsus Afina Released

After being held by Boko Haram since early June, Fr. Alphonsus Afina has been released and has safely returned to his Diocese in Nigeria. Please see the statement below from the Office of the Bishop.



July 22, 2025
Dear Parishioners,

As many of you already know, Fr. Alphonsus Afina was released yesterday from captivity by Boko Haram. I received confirmation from his home diocese of Maiduguri that he has been returned and is currently with his bishop, Oliver Doeme Dashe.

Thank you for the deep concern for Fr. Alphonsus which many of you expressed to me during the past two months. Most of all, thank you for your perseverance in prayers for Fr. Alphonsus' well-being and release.

God's grace was at work in the goodwill and efforts of many people. Please continue to pray for Fr. Alphonsus as he recovers from his ordeal and to remember all the faithful who are suffering in captivity.

Let us recall how the Lord powerfully works in the lives of His children!

In Christ,

Most Rev. Steven J. Maekawa, O.P.
Bishop of Fairbanks

THANK YOU CORNER

Thank you so much to all who worked to make our annual Parish Picnic a huge success! Many thanks to Social Committee, all who signed up to assist in various ways, pulled pork contestants, the judges, and everyone who came out to spend the day with us!

Congrats to the Pulled Pork Contest winners:

1st: Justin Renner | 2nd: April Smith | 3rd: Kenny Young

VOLUNTEER



If you are looking to get involved in your parish, we invite you to attend an in person Safe Environment training to start your volunteer experience!

August 9th from 9am - noon
at St Nicholas Church in North Pole

For more information on the training, please contact the parish office or the safe environment office at the Diocese of Fairbanks - jniedziela@cbna.org or 907-374-9511



St. Nick's Youth Ministry is in urgent need of Adult Assistants at our Summer programs for the following dates and times:

SNYM
SUMMER
SUNDAYS

AUG
: 3rd : 17th
: 10th : 24th
Sundays 4-6 PM

SEPT
• 7th

SNYM First
FRIDAYS

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

• Aug. 8th
• Sept. 5th
5:30-8:30 PM
on Fridays

Contact St. Nick's Youth Minister, Beth Sauer with any questions, concerns, or to volunteer. Email: stnicksym@cbna.org • Text or Call: 907-978-4786

Your support will ensure that our Parish can continue offering programs for our Youth & Teens throughout the Summer!

thank you!

50th ANNIVERSARY Celebration

In honor of our 50th Anniversary of St. Nicholas parish, come celebrate with us at the Grange Hall where our parish was established! On Friday, 26 September 2025 at 6pm, we will be hosting previous pastors and deacons to share their stories about serving our parish community. Come share this milestone anniversary with us! Please see a 50th Anniversary Committee Member to purchase a ticket or contact the parish office for more info.

26 Friday,
September at the
Grange Hall, 6 PM

- Heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer will be served
- Tickets \$30 per person
Tickets are limited!



Young Adult Outing at the Tanana Valley State Fair

Come join us at the Tanana Valley State Fair on their annual Canned Soup Night July 31st @ 6pm! Free admission for all who bring at least 4 cans in support of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. Scan the QR code for more information! Must be 18-35 to join.



Reflections on Stewardship

In our Gospel reading from Luke, some disciples of Jesus ask our Lord to teach them how to pray. Jesus instantly offers them the beautiful prayer which we, of course, call the Our Father.

The Our Father is truly a steward's prayer. In it, we call upon God in an intimate way, as Father. We ask that His will be done (not ours!) and that His kingdom come (not ours!). In other words, we remember that He is our Creator, everything is His, and our focus in life should be on His priorities, not our own. Then we ask Him to supply our needs (to give our daily bread), forgive our sins, and protect us from evil. That is, we proclaim our complete trust in His provision for us and mercy towards us. We, too, commit to extending mercy ourselves (as we forgive those who sin against us).

As we pray the words of the Our Father, we recognize this basic truth about ourselves and God: God is our Father, and we are beloved and infinitely blessed to be His children. This is the basis of a stewardship way of life.

At the end of the Gospel passage, Jesus encourages us to pursue a relationship with the Father: Ask Him, seek Him, knock on His door!

He can hardly wait to bless us, His children. Remember that this week, then go, be a blessing to others! Stewardship is just that simple.

©Catholic Stewardship Consultants

**IT IS IN
GIVING THAT WE
RECEIVE**
-ST. FRANCIS OF



*God
loves a cheerful giver*
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7 ~



FAITH DIRECT™
inspiring secure giving™



Our parish ministries depend on the steady, consistent support provided by monthly givers. It is a lifeline that sustains us year-round when summer vacations, holiday travels, inclement weather, and other forces keep people away from services. Plus, it eases the workload on our hardworking staff (who also want to take vacations!), since they have less cash and check donations to process.

Getting started with eGiving is easy.

**Sign up today by visiting
faith.direct/AK237 or call their
Customer Service team at 866-507-8757.**

community rewards
Where shopping & giving unite

Want to help raise money for St Nicks?

Sign up for this great NO COST TO YOU way to help

St Nicks earn money! Go to:

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Follow the instructions using KD433 for St Nicholas Catholic Church.

Earn money for St Nick while still earning rewards for yourself.

**Soup Kitchen serving hours
are Saturday & Sunday only,
1pm-3pm.**

***Soup kitchen is in need of
volunteers!*** If you'd like to
volunteer to help with the
Soup Kitchen, please contact
Immaculate Conception at
907-452-3533 ext. 1003, or
iccsoupkitchen@cbna.org

**Requested Donations for
Soup Kitchen**

CLOTHING ITEMS:

Baseball caps, new socks (men's
and women's), toothpaste

FOOD ITEMS THAT ARE NEEDED:

Bottles of water, grocery bags,
salad dressing, coffee, fruit,
protein bars, peanut butter, jelly

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

*"Love alone have I ever given to the good God; with love He
will repay me."* - St. Therese of Lisieux

ADORATION TIMES

St. Nicholas Church

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:00AM - 9AM Adoration with Morning Prayer

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Thursday 8:00AM—12:00 PM, Saturday 3:00PM-4:00PM

Immaculate Conception Church

Sun 11AM—7PM

Mon—Thurs. 7AM - 7PM

Fri. 7AM—11PM

Sat.. 12AM—4PM

St. Raphael Catholic Church

Tues. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, Wed. 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Thurs. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, Fri. 7 AM - 6 PM

Road System Holy Mass Times

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Fairbanks

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm (Spanish)

Weekday: M - F 7:30 am

Tridentine Mass of the Roman Rite (Latin Mass)

**Held at Immaculate
Conception
JULY SCHEDULE
TBA**

Saint Mark University Parish, Fairbanks

Sunday: 5:30 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral

Immaculate Conception, Fairbanks (452-3533)

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 10:00 am

Weekday: M 8:30 am, T-F 12:10 pm & W 12:10 pm & 7pm

Saint Raphael, Fairbanks (457-6603)

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 9:30 am

Weekday Masses: T & Th 9:30 am &
W 5:30 pm

Our Lady of the Snows, Eielson AFB

Sunday: 10:30 am

Weekday: T, W & TH 11:30 am

Good Shepherd, Ft. Wainwright

Sunday: 9:00 am



Sung Vespers

Sundays at **4:45pm** | Sacred Heart Cathedral

Evening Prayer (or *Vespers*) is one of the hours of
the Liturgy of the hours.

Consists of praying the psalms put to traditional
chant tones.



DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS

1316 PEGER ROAD • FAIRBANKS, ALASKA • 99709 • 907-374-9500 • FAX: 907-374-9580

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

23 July 2025

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Our diocese has been profoundly blessed by the presence of international priests and religious who have left the familiarity of their homes and cultures to serve the people of northern Alaska. As many of you know, the process for accepting foreign clergy is a long and arduous process to secure a religious worker (R-1) visa which allows them to serve for up to five years. Current visa rules require that a foreign religious worker leave the United States for one year before applying to return. As you can imagine, this seriously affects our ability to keep priests who wish to continue their ministry beyond five years.

Recently, legislation was introduced in both houses of Congress to remove the one-year departure requirement for religious workers in the country with an approved R-1 and I-360. This is a change for which we have been waiting and hoping! This bill has bipartisan support (from Democrats and Republicans) and is bicameral (the same bill was introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives) which gives us great hope for final passage. That said, **the more support we can provide, the sooner and more likely it is to pass.** I am asking the faithful of the diocese to consider contacting our senators and representative to support this bill.

Suggested text is provided below though you are free to write your own message of support. You may wish to include how one or more of our missionary priests has positively affected you and your community.

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Representative Begich,

Please support passage of the Religious Workforce Protection Act (S. 1298 and H.R. 2672), a critical measure that would provide relief for religious workers and their employers facing extensive delays in obtaining permanent residency due to a backlog in the EB-4 visa category.

The Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks depends heavily on missionary priests to serve Alaskans across our vast state, ensuring that vital sacramental ministries continue to thrive in even the most remote communities. Several international priests serving in the Diocese of Fairbanks have generously agreed to pursue a green card so they can serve beyond the five years allowed by the Religious Worker (R-1) visa. **These priests will be required to leave the country over the next two years if this bill is not passed. If this happens, 25% of our Catholic parishes in northern Alaska will lose their priests.**

Thank you,
[your name]

In the coming weeks, we will be providing pre-addressed postcards with the statement to all parishes. If you use the postcards, it is important that you **write your return address, sign the postcard, and affix postage** before you mail it to our Congressional delegation so that they know you are a constituent.

Here is the contact information for the three Alaska representatives. You can call or email, whichever you prefer.

- Senator Lisa Murkowski
Email: <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/contact/email>
Phone: 907-456-0233 (Fairbanks), 907-271-3735 (Anchorage), 202-224-6665 (D.C.)
- Senator Dan Sullivan
Email: <https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/contact/email>
Phone: 907-456-0261 (Fairbanks), 907-271-5915 (Anchorage), 202-224-3004 (D.C.)
- Representative Nick Begich
Email: <https://begich.house.gov/contact/email-me>
Phone: 907-251-4560 (Fairbanks), 907-921-6575 (Anchorage), 202-225-5765 (D.C.)

As always, I ask you to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life here in northern Alaska. While we are extremely grateful for those who have come to serve the faithful of Fairbanks, we must also be responsible for raising up our own workers for the vineyard.

Sincerely in Christ,

†Most Reverend Steven J. Mackawa, O.P.
Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska
Diocese of Fairbanks

SJM/rdf

Do you have a business to promote or know someone who does?
Please consider advertising in the bulletin.

Ads are just \$25 per month!
Parishioners love supporting other parishioners and their friends.
Home businesses are welcome

If interested, please contact Anne:
Email: snicksfinance@cdna.org
Phone: (907) 322-1901



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Donations to St. Nicholas Catholic Church can be made at any time via PayPal by scanning the QR Code.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to support our church.



Volunteers are always appreciated and there are many ways to help at St. Nicholas.

Please contact the Parish Coordinator's office to inquire about opportunities.

+ MyCatholicDoctor



Daniel Parr, MD
Family Physician
314-888-5233 ext 1242
Telemedicine and House Calls



Accepting direct group and out-of-network insurance.
Self pay with discounted rates.
In-network will become available later in 2025.

Parish Finances

Thank you for being as generous as your means allow.

GENERAL OFFERINGS as of 07/20/25

General offerings	\$ 9,106
Budgeted weekly need	<u>(7,283)</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,823

Restricted: Building Fund YTD: \$ 1,520

Thank you for your continued contributions.

The 50th Anniversary Committee is selling mugs, magnets, and ornaments featuring the artwork of one of our parishioners, Ruth Segler. Please fill out an order form available on the tables to make a purchase. Proceeds from the sale will go towards the expenses of our 50th Anniversary celebration.

July's 3% will go to Fairbanks Rescue Mission.
To learn more about this community outreach go to www.fairbanksrescuemission.org

The Mission works to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of those who come to our doors. We operate the only overnight emergency shelter for men, women, and children in Interior Alaska, and, therefore, we play a key role in the life of our community.



Fairbanks
Rescue Mission
shelter, safety, transformation

(907) 488-6600

Jackie at
Hair Affair

North Pole Plaza
301 N Santa Claus Ln # 301
North Pole, AK 99705



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Property Management Supervisor

Team Nicholson
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