

Holy Cross Catholic Church



*There are different ministries,
but the same Lord.
You then are the Body of Christ.
Everyone of you is a member of it.*
1 Corinthians 12:5 & 27

First Sunday of Advent Dec 3, 2023

Psalm 85:8

*Show us Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.*



Father Pat Travers, Pastor

(907)349-8388 extension 5 | pjtravers@att.net

Father Dan Hebert, Parochial Vicar

(907)349-8388 extension 4 | livenowdan@gmail.com

Deacon Sandon & Sharlet Broek

(907)947-9168 | sandon@gengineersinc.com

Jerica Manaois, Faith Formation Director

(907)306-9363 (call/txt) | formation@holycrossalaska.net

Chelsea Higgins, Administrative Assistant

(907)349-8388 extension 2 | office@holycrossalaska.net

Karen Kontra, Faith Formation Associate

Adrian & Irma Guerrero, Maintenance

Ryan Meliton, Accompanist

Mass Times Mon-Fri 9am | Sat 5pm | Sun 8am & 11am | Reconciliation Sat 3-4pm or by appt

Office Hours Mon- Thu 9am-1pm | (907) 349-8388 | 2627 Lore Rd Anchorage, AK 99507 | holycrossalaska.net



Retrouvaille

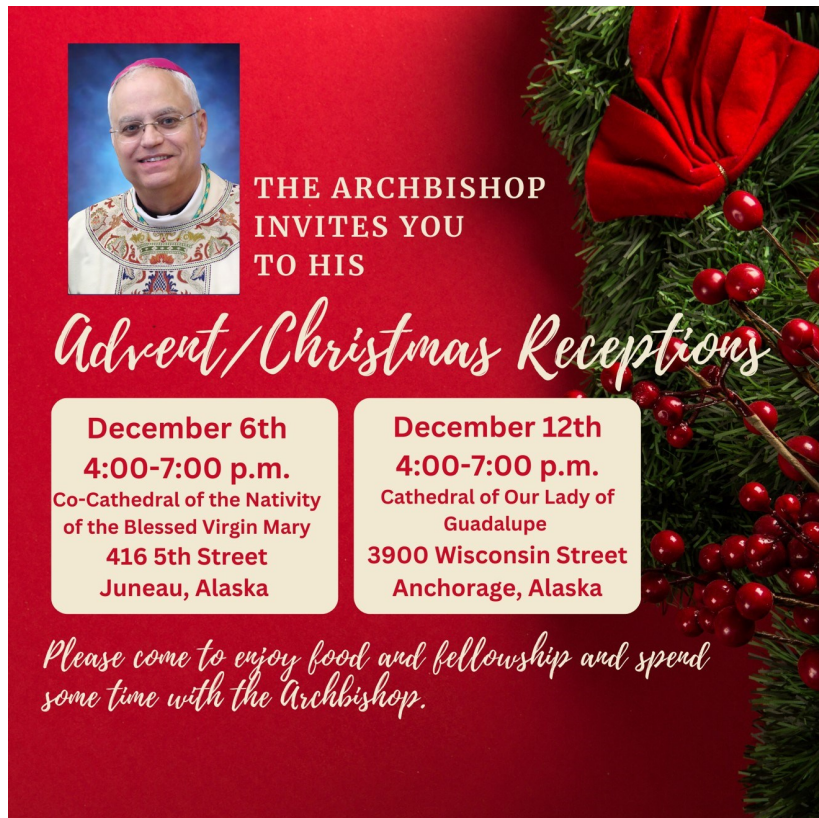
The Retrouvaille Marriage Program has seven post-weekend sessions to further develop the marriage building techniques you will learn on your initial weekend. During the Post Sessions, you will explore more areas of your marriage relationship and have opportunities to expand upon what you've learned about yourself and your spouse. The Post Sessions are a time for on-going formation, fellowship, and fun as your marriage, the union of one man and one woman, continues to blossom with new possibilities. For confidential information or to register for the next Retrouvaille of Alaska program beginning with a weekend experience on Jan. 21, 2024 call 907-863-8000; email: anchorage@helpourmarriage.org; or visit the website www.HelpOurMarriage.org


SAVE THE DATE!

All women of the Archdiocese are invited to join the Ladies of St. Andrew Parish in Eagle River for our annual retreat on Saturday, January 13, 10am-1pm. Our presenter, Monica Anderson, will help us explore the Good Samaritan story from a different lens: How does our own vulnerability deepen our ability to be compassionate? Email standrewsladiesgroup@gmail.com for more information.

POLAR PLUNGE

Some Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau employees and parishioners will participate in the 2023 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Alaska on Saturday, December 16th. The archdiocesan polar plunge team is still accepting donations and additional team members. Go to <https://give.classy.org/aoaj>



 **THE ARCHBISHOP INVITES YOU TO HIS**

Advent/Christmas Receptions

December 6th 4:00-7:00 p.m. Co-Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 416 5th Street Juneau, Alaska	December 12th 4:00-7:00 p.m. Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe 3900 Wisconsin Street Anchorage, Alaska
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Please come to enjoy food and fellowship and spend some time with the Archbishop.



Holy Spirit Center

Seeking Vendors/Artists

Friday
December
15, 2023

6pm to 9pm



Merry Christmas
Holiday Arts and
Crafts Pop Up

10980 Hillside Drive Anchorage

907-744-7003



AT 7:00 P.M. ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
 & **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL PARISH MISSION

with Father Declan Gibson



**2901 E. Huffman Rd.
 Anchorage, AK 99516**

Bring the family. Invite a
 friend. All are welcome!

*Saint Therese's
 Camp*

*Annual Winter
 Retreat*

*Grades 6-8
 Dec. 28-30
 \$125*

**Glory
 Bound
 2023!**

*Grades 9-12
 Dec. 30-Jan. 1
 \$133*



*Fun!
 Faith!
 Friends!*



Scan QR code to register & for info!

Contact www.stcak.com
 or 907 232 2066 for more

It's that time of the year again when our local Catholic Daughters of the America's are offering (3) Camperships to St. Therese's Camp in Wasilla for the 2024 summer session; for students currently in 5th, 6th and 7th grade. A 250-300 word essay written or typed on "Who is your favorite Saint and why? What virtues did they possess that inspire you"? Applications and more information are available at your Parish or Catholic School office or can be emailed to you by contacting kewhitney14@gmail.com. You can also call Kerry at 907-230-4726. Application and essay must be entirely completed and postmarked no later than January 3, 2024 and sent to:

CDA Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 243953
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-3953
 or emailed directly to
kewhitney14@gmail.com
 Please encourage your
 youth to participate!



This Week at Holy Cross

Mon Dec 4

9am- Mass
1pm- Aspen Creek Service
6pm- Maintenance Meeting

Tue Dec 5

9am- Mass
6:30pm- Knights of Columbus
7pm-OCIA

Wed Dec 6

9am- Mass

Thu Dec 7

9am- Mass

Fri Dec 8- Office Closed- Holy Day of Obligation

Immaculate Conception

9am- Mass
6pm- Mass

Sat Dec 9

10am- Lector Training
10:30am- Children's Christmas Choir rehearsal
1pm- Legion of Mary
3-4pm-Confession
4pm- Eucharistic Minister Training
5pm- Mass

Sun Dec 3

8am- Mass
9am- Faith Formation
11am- Mass (Rosary to follow)

Mass Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Prepare the way of the Lord.

PSALM 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Peter 3:8-14

We await new heavens and a new earth.

Mark 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

Mass Intentions

Call or email the office to schedule your Mass intentions.

Sun 8am Mass is offered for the People of the Parish

12/2- 5pm: ROS Lorraine Lopez

12/9- 5pm: ROS Dorinda Wenrich

Vocations Cross

We are looking for more families to volunteer to pray with the vocations cross. Sign up outside the sanctuary.

Reflection

Those who claim to be spiritual masters often enjoin us to "live in the present." There is a wisdom to this advice; becoming too caught up in looking ahead to the future can cause undue anxiety. But the things we hope for and wait for reflect something about who we are, and Advent is a time to look forward. This does not exclude living in the present though- looking for Christ's coming is not just about looking to the future but also includes seeking and finding it here and now, in the realities of our lives as they are actually lived.

Be Watchful and Hold On

In the lives of those who believe and pray, there are bleak winters of the spirit. We seem to go along well for a while in prayer and relationships and life generally, but from time to time we disintegrate. It is very painful. You may suspect that this will prove to be a creative disintegration, that God is re-creating you, putting you together in the likeness of his Son at a new and deeper level. Certainly this does happen: growth is not easy; there is a probably distressing period for the caterpillar on the way to butterflyhood. We are all participants in this experience from time to time and a chrysalis needs sympathetic understanding, so we should be gentle and patient with ourselves as with others. Nevertheless, they are hard to live through, these winters of the spirit. When you know yourself to be sterile, helpless, unable to deal creatively with your situation or change your own heart, you know your need for a Savior, and you know what Advent is. God brings us to these winters, these dreary times of deadness and emptiness of spirit, as truly as he brings winter after autumn, as a necessary step towards next spring. But while we are in them they feel like a real absence of God, or our absence from him...

Looking back, you know that these times brought you closer to the Lord of the winter, that it was necessary for you to go through them. In the winters of your prayer, when there seems to be nothing but darkness and a situation of general frozenness, hold on, wait for God. He will come.

Sr. Maria Boulding, *The Coming of God*

Maria Boulding (1929–2009) was a Benedictine nun of Stanbrook Abbey in England. She was a theologian, spiritual writer, and translator of the works of St. Augustine. She authored The Coming of God and edited A Touch of God.



On the Way Home from Mass...

How have we been awakened to all the ways Jesus comes to us?

Ministry Schedule for next week (Dec 2/3)

Mass	Music	Sacristan	Servers	Readers	EM	Hospitality
Sat 5 pm	Ryan Meliton (walk-ins welcome)	Pat Seidl (Fleur Bases)	Olivia and Sebastian Maglaqui	Deb Seidl		Maglaqui Family
Sun 8 am	Ryan Meliton (walk-ins welcome)	John Hoppe (Will Nabors)	Joe and Rose Webb	Jason Hlasny		Karin Hermansen Henry Maes
Sun 11 am	Sheila Soukup (walk-ins welcome)	Volunteer Needed	Nikylla and Nathan Marcelino	Mary Anne Green		Landicho Family

Faith Formation Classes

December 10:

Preschool-6 gr. in Classroom
Grades 7-12 in Family Session

December 17:

Everyone is in Family Session

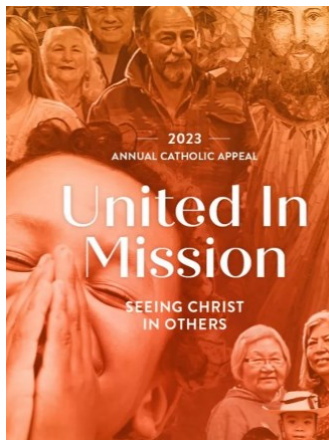
Wear your pajamas & bring a dish!



Faith Formation runs from 9-10:45am.

Registration is on-going at: holycrossalaska.net/register

Interested in becoming Catholic? Learn more at an OCIA meeting happening on Tue evenings at 7pm.



THANK YOU!!

We have officially passed our United in Mission Archdiocesan goal for pledges! Thank you for your generous support!! We are now working to meet our parish goal! We currently have \$44,770 pledged. (Our parish budgeted goal is \$53,478.)

Holy Day of Obligation



Fri Dec 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please join us at Mass at 9am or 6pm.

Advent/ Christmas Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times

Sat 12/23 at 5pm & Sun 12/24 at 10am

Christmas Eve Mass Times

Sun 12/24 at 5pm and Midnight

Christmas Day Mass Times

Mon 12/25 at 8am and 11am

Attention Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Lector training will be Dec 9 at 10am. Eucharistic Minister training will also be on Dec 9, but at 4pm!



Warmth for the Poor



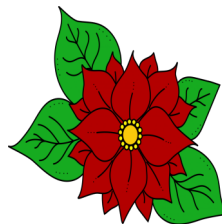
Casen Kallman, who is preparing for Confirmation, is asking for donations of socks and gloves for the homeless. They will be distributed by Urban Hearts in their Christmas bags. A blue bin is in the Fellowship Hall for collection. Please bring them by December 10th. Thank you for your generosity.

Childrens Christmas Choir

Rehearsals are scheduled for 10:30am Sat mornings leading up to Christmas. If you have questions call Sheila Soukup at 250-6234.



Poinsettia Season!



Poinsettia coupons from Bell's Nursery are available for \$10 each. They will be for sell following the Masses. The proceeds will help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. After purchasing your coupon visit the Bell's store to choose your plants.

Parish Directory

If you would like to be in our parish directory please submit a picture with name/s by Sun Dec 10. Let us know any corrections or changes to our current directory. Thank you for your interest in getting to know our Holy Cross Community. Email the office with your photo and information!

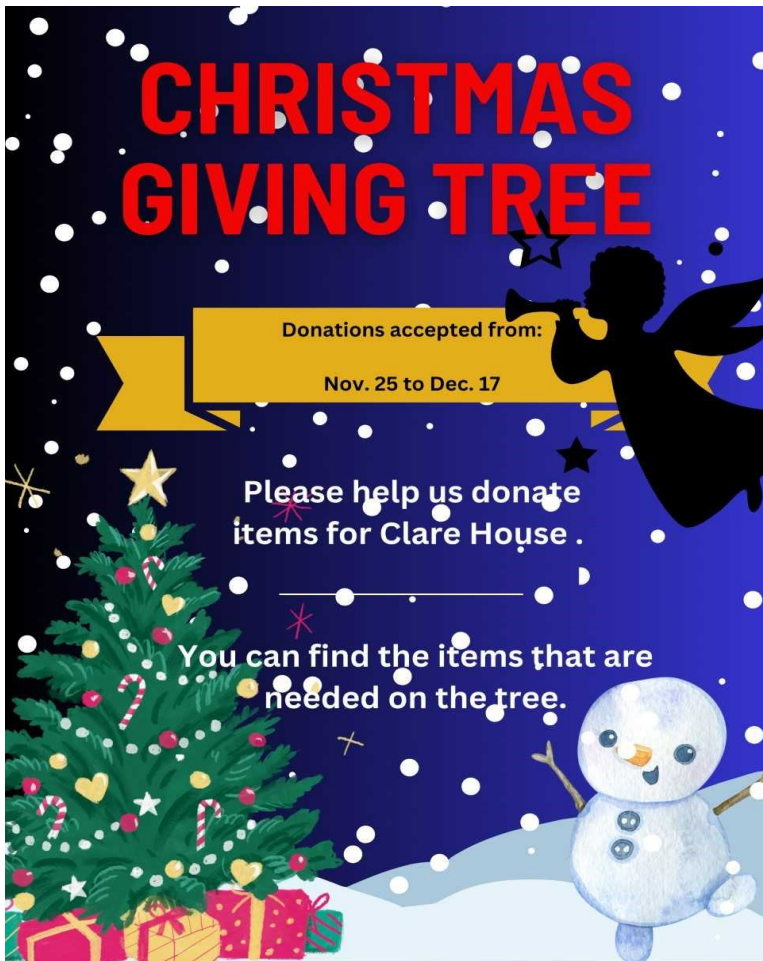
CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Donations accepted from:

Nov. 25 to Dec. 17

Please help us donate items for Clare House.

You can find the items that are needed on the tree.



Dear Friends of Catholic Social Services,

We invite you to share, volunteer, and donate!



Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services is supporting 25 new arrivals between November and January! RAIS currently provides services for over 800 individuals.

Here are 4 ways to support RAIS clients:

FIG Holiday Boxes



Fresh International Gardens (FIG) Holiday Boxes are back! FIG Holiday boxes consist of products made and inspired by our refugee community. All proceeds go directly back to FIG refugee co-op participants.

This year, we are excited to offer three specially-curated boxes, all featuring our **new tea blends**, five fresh Alaskan flavors planted, harvested, and packaged by FIG program participants!

Choose from the following boxes, and support the refugee community in Alaska:

1. Alaskan Deluxe (\$70): FIG Spice Blend Variety Pack, FIG Tea Blends, Berbere & Beets Cookbook, and FIG Chive Blossom Vinegar
2. Winter Spectacular (\$50): FIG Spice Blend Pinch Pack, FIG Tea Blends, and Berbere & Beets Cookbook
3. Aurora Sampling (\$30): FIG Spice Blend Pinch Pack, FIG Tea Blends, and Grow North Farm Tote Bag

Visit grownorthfarm.com to learn more and to purchase your holiday gift today.

Orders will be accepted until December 8th, pick-up will take place at our Annual RAIS Holiday Bake Sale on December 14th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

RAIS Donation Drive

A poster for the RAIS Household Items Drive. It features the Catholic Social Services logo at the top left, the text "Household Items DRIVE Support newly arrived refugee families", and the location and date: "The Welcome Center 4135 San Roberto Ave. Anchorage AK 99508 Thursday December 14th 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.". Below this are illustrations of household items: a sponge, a bottle of dish soap, a bottle of laundry soap, a tube of toothpaste, and a roll of toilet paper. At the bottom, it lists "NEEDS: toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, trash bags, dish soap, laundry soap, sponges" and provides contact information: "Questions? Contact Bridget Jochum at bjochum@cssalaska.org".

FIG Holiday Bake Sale

A poster for the FIG Holiday Bakesale. It features the FIG logo at the top left, the text "Holiday Bakesale Sweets, breads, & more for sale by members of Alaska's refugee community.", and an illustration of a croissant with berries. Below this, it provides the date and time: "When: Thursday, December 14, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.", the location: "Where: The Welcome Center, 4135 San Roberto Ave. Anchorage AK 99508", and the note: "All proceeds go directly to a refugee or new arrival."



Support a RAIS family with Helping Holidays!

[Helping Holidays connects the Anchorage community to Catholic Social Services clients. This program provides gifts for specific families in need by connecting donors like you with families receiving case management support from Catholic Social Services.](#)

Please know that the RAIS program has requested gift cards and one small gift for RAIS families. Many of the refugee families live across the state and gifts will be shipped this year.

To provide gifts for a family at Catholic Social Services- please sign up at cssalaska.org/helpingholidays

Thank you for generously supporting CSS clients!

In-kind Needs for CSS Programs

Clare House: donations can be dropped off at [4110 Spenard Rd, Anchorage](#) 7 days a week from 10am-6pm

- Ice cleats- all sizes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Toothpaste
- Baby lotion and diaper rash cream

RAIS Furniture Needs: Donations can be dropped off at 3710 E 20th AVE, Anchorage Monday-Thursday from 1pm-4pm and Friday from 9am-4pm. [Please drop items off at the grey double doors on the north side of the building.](#)

- Futons
- Armchairs
- Tables and kitchen chairs

First Sunday of Advent 2023

W	S	W	K	S	E	S	U	O	R	D	I	E	S
C	E	W	D	D	R	L	E	M	T	E	R	E	C
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K	O	C	E	P	H	R	U	U	A	I	P	R	T
C	E	H	S	I	C	R	D	R	R	F	R	Y	E
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F	W	Y	U	L	S	R	T	E	W	I	B	E	R
A	E	C	A	E	I	E	D	O	O	K	L	R	A
A	D	I	L	F	S	A	V	E	D	L	E	E	D

- CONFIRMED
- FELLOWSHIP
- HEARKEN
- ROUSES
- CHERUBIM
- SUDDENLY
- CLAY
- WATCHFUL
- SAVED
- BESTOWED
- GATEKEEPER
- IRREPROACHABLE
- COCKCROW
- SPIRITUAL
- WORTHY

PARISH MINISTRIES SERVICE TEAM

- Altar Servers- Jerica Manaois: 230-9418
- Art & Environment- Marilyn Kerr: 346-1624
- Baked Goods & Funerals- Looking for help!
- Blessed Sacrament Monastery- Sandon Broek: 947-9168
- Clare House- Leslie Holland: 337-278-7852
- Faith Formation- Jerica Manaois: 306-9363
- Church Maintenance- Mike Likar: 529-9015
- Eucharistic Ministers- John Hoppe: 350-7580
- Finance- Greg Magee: 575-3197
- Parish Nurse Program- Deb Seidl: 301-4180
- Hospitality- Joy Maglaqui: 360-5133
- Knights of Columbus- Pat Seidl: 242-1127
- Lawn & Garden- Julie Spralading: 636-399-0892
- Legion of Mary- Mercy Acheson: 223-4822
- Library- Maureen Retzel: 441-0460
- Liturgical Ministries Coordinator- Julie Thomas: 538-1109
- Livestream- John Roberts: 317-6808
- Music Ministry- Sheila Soukup: 250-6234
- Prayer Chain- Joan Gillis: 346-3147
- Readers- Jason Hlasny: 242-6655
- OCIA- Sandon Broek: 947-9168
- Sacristan- Matthew Williams: 632-4252
- Youth/Young Adult- Jerica Manaois: 306-9363

Thank you for supporting our advertisers!

Financial Corner

TITHING UPDATE			
<i>How did we do last week in meeting our weekly offertory goal?</i>			
Weekly Offertory Goal:	\$	7,894	
Weekly Tithing Period:		11/20-26/2023	
Income Sources			
Weekly Collections:	\$	6,371	
Holy Day/Holiday Collections:	\$	-	
Online Giving:	\$	2,611	
Total:	\$	8,982	
Over/(Under) Goal:	\$	1,088	
Actual vs. Goal (%):		113.8%	
Actual vs. Budget "Total Income" for FY24 Year-To-Date (YTD) Period			
FY24 YTD Period:	7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023		
FY24 YTD Complete (%):	33.3%		
Annual Budget Total Income FY 2024:	\$	443,400	
Actual Total Income for Period:	\$	138,181	
Budget Total Income for Period:	\$	147,800	
Over/(Under) Budget for Period:	\$	(9,619)	
Actual vs. Budget for Period (%):	93.5%		
Breakdown of Actual "Total Income" for FY24 YTD Period			
FY24 YTD Period:	7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023		
Weekly Collections (Basket/Mail):	\$	73,298	53.0%
Holy Day/Holiday Collections (Basket/Mail):	\$	652	0.5%
Online Giving:	\$	48,150	34.8%
2023 United in Mission Annual Appeal (Rebate Paid To Date):	\$	-	0.0%
Stole Fees:	\$	2,595	1.9%
In-Kind Donations:	\$	15,887	11.5%
Investment Income:	\$	(9,676)	-7.0%
Fee Income:	\$	4,317	3.1%
Other:	\$	2,958	2.1%
Total:	\$	138,181	100.0%
Actual vs. Budget "Total Expenses" for FY24 Year-To-Date (YTD) Period			
FY24 YTD Period:	7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023		
FY24 YTD Complete (%):	33.3%		
Annual Budget Total Expenses FY 2023:	\$	473,400	
Actual Total Expenses for Period:	\$	131,354	
Budget Total Expenses for Period:	\$	157,800	
Over/(Under) Budget for Period:	\$	(26,446)	
Actual vs. Budget for Period (%):	83.2%		
Actual "Total Net Income" for FY24 YTD Period			
FY24 YTD Period:	7/1/2023 to 10/31/2023		
Actual Total Income for Period:	\$	138,181	
Actual Total Expenses for Period:	\$	131,354	
Actual Total Net Income for Period:	\$	6,827	
Total Net Income "Over/(Under)" Total Expenses for Period (%):	5.2%		

ALERT! Holy Cross staff will not contact you requesting gift cards. Never purchase or send money/gift cards electronically.

Paul J. Nangle & Associates

Paul J. Nangle
Attorney
General Practice

(907) 274-8866 FAX: (907) 279-1794
Paul.J.Nangle@acsalaska.net
Kerry Building, 101 Christensen Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



Community
Pregnancy
Center

4231 Lake Otis Pkwy
Anchorage, AK 99508

Client Services
www.cpcanchorage.com
(907) 337-9292
info@cpcanchorage.com

Support CPC's Ministry and Services
www.friendsofcpcanchorage.com
(907) 375-7303
development@cpcanchorage.com

Hello!

Buying, selling or renting a home can be a stressful and confusing. I can assist in this process by negotiating for you and organizing transaction while putting your needs first.

I also provide a Free Home Evaluation!



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907-301-9894
mardi770@aol.com
marditursich.jackwhite.com



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Sandra Nunes
REALTOR®, GRI, CRS

Hablo Español
(907) 242-0863
sandrannunes@ak.net

Rick Nunes
REALTOR®
(907) 227-6593
ricknunes@remax.net

3350 Midtown Place
Anchorage, AK 99503



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POLAR BEAR
Dental Care

Dr. Alison Walsh, DDS

polarbeardental.com

1301 Huffman Road, Suite 206 | Anchorage, AK 99515
907-677-2327 | info@polarbeardental.com



Randall Maes, AAMS®, CRPC®
Vice President - Senior Financial Consultant
Anchorage Branch
NMLS # 731003

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.
Charles Schwab Bank*
1400 W Benson Blvd, Suite #180
Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel: +1 (907) 263-2376 Fax: +1 (907) 263-2323
randall.maes@schwab.com

schwab.com

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