



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



15 DECEMBER 2024

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

Advent

Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm - High River
Sunday 9:00 am - Vulcan
Sunday 11:00 am - High River

CONFESSIONS

Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Third Sunday of Advent

December
15, 2024



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Zephaniah 3: 14-18a) In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare [Luke 1:28-31](#)). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, “a mighty Savior.”

Second Reading: (Philippians 4:4-7) This theme resounds through today's readings: “Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all,” we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

Gospel: (Luke 3:10-18) The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to “repent” or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see [Luke 3:3](#); [5:32](#); [24:47](#)). [https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections for more info.](https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections-for-more-info)

Confession is serious, but a little humor never hurts to lighten the mood!

Parishioner: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. I stole some lumber."

Priest: "That's serious. How much did you take?"

Parishioner: "Enough to build a birdhouse."

Priest: "That's not too bad. Say three Hail Marys."

Parishioner: "And a garage."

Priest: "...Okay, make that ten Hail Marys and a firm resolution to stop stealing."

Parishioner: "And a boat dock..."

Priest: "You'd better stop confessing before I call the carpenter!"

Saturday Morning Candlelight Masses

RORATE

A **Rorate Mass** is a special Advent liturgy in the Catholic Church, traditionally celebrated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It takes its name from the opening words of the Introit (Entrance Antiphon) in Latin: “**Rorate caeli desuper**” (“Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above”), taken from Isaiah 45:8.

Please join us for the Rorate Mass, which will be celebrated at 7:00 AM on Dec. 14th and 21st



Shout aloud
AND SING FOR JOY:
GREAT IN YOUR MIDST IS
THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL
ISAIAH 12



Advent Penitential Service

Please join us for our Advent Penitential Service, **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**, after the **6:00 pm** Mass.



Office Closed

The Parish office will be closed
**Dec. 24, 2024—
Jan. 1, 2025**

Regular office hours will
resume **Jan. 2, 2025**

Confession or Communion to the Homebound

If you are homebound and desiring to receive communion or the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please call the parish office at 403-652-2203 or email Father Marius at dzambel@me.com to request a visit. He will do his best to schedule a visit with you



"The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world. Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: he is God with us. Seek him without tiring, welcome him without reserve, love him without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever." Saint John Paul II



Sunday Offering

Did you know we now take Donations electronically! **You have the following options:** Direct Debit, Visa, Master Card. We also have E-transfer set up. The email address is

donation@francisdesaleshighriver.com
If you are interested in switching over to one of these payment methods, please call Nancy in the church office at **403-652-2203** or email her at **francisdesales@shaw.ca**



Adoration

Please join us for our Adoration after the 9:00 am mass on Thursdays, **from 9:45 am—9:00pm.** If you would like to come for an assigned time, please contact Nancy in the office at **403-652-2203** or email her at **francisdesales@shaw.ca**
All are welcome!



Ecumenical Advent Carol Service

Thank you to all who came to the Advent Carol Service last Sunday evening. Our choir did an exceptional job, as well the combined choir from several churches sounded amazing. Thank you to our Filipino band for accompanying our choir

It's great to know we have a wonderful Community in High River that comes together to celebrate the Advent Season.

"For it is in giving that we receive."
~ St. Francis of Assisi

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

THE HOLY MASS with BISHOP WILLIAM MCGRATTAN

Celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year with Bishop William T. McGrattan, rooted in the Church's tradition of spiritual renewal, forgiveness, and hope, as we journey together as "Pilgrims of Hope."

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT NOON

St. Mary's Cathedral
219 18 Ave SW
Calgary

YOU ARE called YOU MATTER YOU BELONG

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of Calgary

October

SFDS 2025 Calendars Fundraiser for Pro-Life

Dear Parishioners,
We are thrilled to invite you to purchase our **2025 parish calendar!** This unique calendar not only helps you organize the upcoming year but also beautifully showcases the life and moments of our parish community through stunning photographs.

Let this calendar serve as a daily reminder of our shared faith, community spirit, and dedication to life-affirming causes. Thank you for standing with us and making a positive impact through your support.

The suggested price is 10\$
With prayers and blessings,
Fr. Marius

If you are in the hospital, and are **Roman Catholic**, please insure you or a family member contacts Nancy in the Church Office at 403- 652-2203. This will ensure that you will be visited by the Priest or Pastoral Care Team.



SFDS CWL Bake Sales



Pictured here are Ann Weston, Bae Taylor, Debbie-Layne McLeod, Nancy Frost, Mary Ann Dearing and Joanne Van Donzel preparing the tables, arranging the sweets, and making coffee for the CWL Christmas Bake Sale. It was a tremendous success raising \$1971.00.

A huge thank you to our CWL members and parishioners.



SFDS HELPING HANDS

Report for the months of Aug.–Dec. 2024

The St. Francis de Sales Ministry has helped a total number of 7 people for the months of August to December 2024. We paid out a total of **\$5,098.40** for bills, rent, or mortgages, as well, we gave a total of **\$550.00** in fuel cards, and **\$1000.00** in grocery cards. The total assistance we have given this period is **\$6,648.40**

It is rewarding to be able to assist these people who are genuinely struggling. The help we give is so appreciated. We try to listen and give help as much as we can as quickly as possible.

A huge **Thank You** to all those who have made a donation to this rewarding ministry.



CWL Food Drive



Pictured here are Cliff Taylor, Dennis Ewchuk and Don Horn who delivered the non perishable food items to the High River Salvation Food Bank. Officer Renee Mailman accepts the cheque from CWL members Bae Taylor and Susan Horn. Sheila Mac Donald helped with the weighing in of food.

A total of **1052 lbs** was collected. The **largest amount** we have ever received. A huge thank you to all of the parishioners of St. Francis de Sales Parish who helped provide food for the less fortunate. **A true act of GIVING.**

SUNDAY MISSAL

2024–2025



LivingwithChrist

2025 Missals

The 2025 **Sunday Missals** are now available in the church hall.

A donation is greatly appreciated.



Confession, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation, remains essential today for several reasons despite the challenges and distractions of modern life:

1. Reconnecting with God:

In a world that often emphasizes self-sufficiency, confession reminds us of our dependence on God's mercy and grace.

It helps restore and deepen our relationship with God when it has been damaged by sin.

2. Cleansing the Soul:

Sin burdens our hearts and minds. Confession provides a way to unburden ourselves, receive forgiveness, and experience spiritual renewal.

3. Developing Self-Awareness:

Through the examination of conscience, we reflect on our actions and choices, becoming more aware of how we align—or fail to align—with God's will.

This practice fosters personal growth and moral clarity, especially in a world filled with moral ambiguities.

4. Healing Relationships:

Confession helps us acknowledge how our sins affect others and strengthens our resolve to repair broken relationships.

It promotes forgiveness, both from God and from ourselves, which is crucial for emotional and spiritual health.

5. Guidance and Accountability:

The sacrament provides an opportunity to seek guidance from a priest, who acts as a spiritual mentor.

In today's isolated and individualistic culture, this accountability can help us stay on the path of holiness.

6. Receiving Grace for Strength:

Confession imparts sacramental grace, which helps us resist future temptations and grow in virtue.

It equips us to face the unique challenges of our time, such as materialism, digital distractions, and social divisions.

7. Countering Modern Cynicism:

In a world often marked by cynicism and despair, confession offers hope. It reminds us that no sin is too great for God's mercy.

It combats the idea that morality is relative, affirming the unchanging truth of God's love and justice.

Why Now More Than Ever?

Pace of Life: With the fast pace of modern life, we risk becoming disconnected from our spiritual needs.

Cultural Challenges: Issues like moral relativism, consumerism, and the normalization of sin make it easy to stray from God's path.

Mental Health: Confession's healing power can complement efforts to address guilt, shame, and anxiety, offering peace that only God can give.

In essence, confession today is not just about seeking forgiveness—it is about embracing a transformative encounter with God's mercy, which is profoundly needed in our complex and often fractured world.

Practical Tips for Going to Confession

Going to confession can be a profound spiritual experience if you prepare well. Here are some practical steps:

1. Spiritual Preparation

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit for help in recognizing your sins and fostering true contrition.

Examination of Conscience: Reflect on your life using the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, or other moral guides. You can also use an examination tailored for adults, youth, or children.

2. Contrition

Consider how your sins have affected your relationship with God, others, and yourself. True contrition comes from love for God (perfect contrition) or fear of His justice (imperfect contrition).

3. Make a Firm Resolution to Change

Decide on specific steps to avoid sin in the future. Think about what habits or circumstances you can change to live more faithfully.

During Confession

Step 1: Greeting the Priest

- Begin by saying:

In the Name of the Father ...

Then continue:

It has been [time] since my last confession, and I fulfilled my penance.

Step 2: Confess Your Sins

Clearly and honestly state your sins, without justifying or hiding anything. Focus on mortal sins but also include venial sins you want to confess.

Step 3: Listen to the Priest

The priest may offer advice or encouragement. Listen attentively, as his words can guide your spiritual growth.

Step 4: Express Contrition

After the priest speaks, express your sorrow by praying an act of contrition, such as:

Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Step 5: Receive Absolution

When the priest absolves you, respond with: Amen.

After Confession

1. Fulfill Your Penance: Complete the assigned penance as soon as possible to fully close the sacramental process.

2. Live in Grace: Pray daily, avoid occasions of sin, and stay close to the sacraments to grow in your spiritual life.

By following these steps, confession becomes not just an obligation but a meaningful encounter with God's mercy.



Celebrating 143 Years of the Salvatorians

On December 8th, 2024, the Salvatorian Family will celebrate its 143rd anniversary—an extraordinary milestone that marks over a century of dedicated service, missionary work, and unwavering faith. Founded on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Salvatorians have continually embodied their mission: to make the Savior known to all people.

The Founding Vision

The Salvatorians, officially known as the Society of the Divine Savior (Societas Divini Salvatoris), were founded in 1881 by Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan in Rome. Deeply moved by the spiritual needs of his time, Father Jordan envisioned a community of men and women, religious and laypeople, united by the common goal of spreading the message of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the universal call to salvation, he established a mission that transcended borders, languages, and cultures.



Jordan's vision was clear:

"As long as God is not glorified everywhere, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest."

This relentless dedication to mission work laid the foundation for the Salvatorians' dynamic and far-reaching efforts across the globe.

From its humble beginnings in Rome, the Salvatorian mission quickly expanded. Missionaries were sent to various countries, spreading the Gospel and serving communities in need. The early 20th century saw the establishment of missions in Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia. Each new region brought unique challenges, but the Salvatorians' commitment to their charism "to make Jesus known and loved" remained steadfast.

In 1895, Father Jordan co-founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Savior (Salvatorian Sisters) with Blessed Therese von Wülenweber, further expanding the reach of the Salvatorian mission. Laypeople were also invited to participate in the Salvatorian spirit, leading to the formation of the International Community of the Divine Savior (Lay Salvatorians).

The Salvatorians are known for their versatile and adaptive approach to ministry. Their charism focuses on three core principles:

1. Proclaiming the Gospel through all means possible.
2. Serving humanity without distinction, especially the poor and marginalized.
3. Collaborating as a family, recognizing the unique gifts of priests, sisters, and laypeople.

Today, Salvatorians serve in over 40 countries, engaging in various ministries:

- Education: Schools, universities, and adult education programs.
- Pastoral care: Parish ministries, youth programs, and retreat centers.
- Social services: Health care, humanitarian aid, and advocacy for justice and peace.

Significance of the 143rd Anniversary

This anniversary is not merely a reflection on the past but a call to renew the mission and adapt to contemporary challenges. In a world marked by division, materialism, and spiritual hunger, the Salvatorian message remains as relevant as ever.

As Salvatorians look forward to the future, they continue to draw inspiration from Father Jordan's words:

"We must adapt ourselves to the times if we want to win all for Christ."

The 143rd anniversary is an invitation to all members—priests, sisters, and lay Salvatorians—to recommit to their mission with renewed zeal. It's a time to celebrate achievements, reflect on challenges, and, above all, envision new ways to make the Savior known.

In the spirit of collaboration and innovation, the Salvatorian Family will undoubtedly continue to be an encouragement of hope, faith, and service for generations to come.

Happy 143rd Anniversary to all Salvatorians!

May this milestone inspire an even deeper commitment to the mission entrusted by God through Father Jordan.



CHRISTMAS

MASSES

SCHEDULE

DEC 24



THE VIGIL MASS

5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER

9:00 PM - VULCAN

MIDNIGHT - HIGH RIVER

DEC 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER

OFFICE CLOSED



FROM: 24 - DECEMBER

TO: 1 - JANUARY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Blessings Fr. Marius



NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

CELEBRATE THE END OF YEAR AND THE NEW YEAR WITH US

2024

TUESDAY - 31 5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER
11:00 PM ADORATION - HIGH RIVER
MIDNIGHT MASS - HIGH RIVER

2025

WEDNESDAY - 1 9:00 AM - VULCAN
11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER

HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2025

