



# St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



8 DECEMBER 2024

Roman Catholic Parish  
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



## Office

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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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



# Second Sunday of Advent



## Sunday Readings

**First Reading:** (Baruch 5: 1-9) John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

**Second Reading:** (Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11) This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

**Gospel:** (Luke 3:1-6) That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare [Jeremiah 1:1-4, 11](#)). But John is greater than the prophets (see [Luke 7:27](#)). He's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also [Acts 28:28](#)). <https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections> for more info.



# December 8, 2024

## Let's get him Advertised

There was a little boy named Richie. Two special events had taken place in his life and both had impressed him very much. First, he had recently been baptized, and second, he was the proud brother of a baby boy named Stevie. One Sunday his father asked if he wanted to go to church. Richie's answer was an enthusiastic, "Yes. And let's take Stevie and get him advertised, too!"

Richie wasn't too far off the mark. You see baptism is never really a private affair. The inner changes and convictions, the inner workings of the spirit leading an individual to Christ are personal and private. BUT, the declaration of that faith can never be a private thing, for it is a time of advertising faith and grace.



## The Most Reverend Frederick B. Henry

*The Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary*

11 April 1943 † 03 December 2024

FUNERAL LITURGIES WILL BE HELD  
AT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

### † Prayers & Viewing

MONDAY, DEC 9, 2024  
9 AM TO 4 PM

9 am - Reception of the Body  
and Lauds

Noon - Rosary

3 pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet  
and Vespers

### † Funeral Vigil

MONDAY, DEC 9, 2024  
AT 7 PM

### † Funeral Mass

TUESDAY, DEC 10, 2024  
AT 10:30 AM

RITE OF COMMITTAL  
St. Mary's Cemetery, Calgary

RECEPTION  
St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Hall



The 7:00 am mass on  
**Saturday, Dec. 7,**  
has been cancelled  
due to the passing of

**The Most Reverend  
Frederick B. Henry.**

The **Rorate** mass  
will continue on **Dec. 14  
and 21 at 7:00 am**



## Advent Penitential Service

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

**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](mailto: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!**

**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. Your support of this calendar goes beyond just staying organized—it makes a real difference. All proceeds from sales will be donated to support pro-life initiatives, reflecting our commitment as a parish to defending and cherishing the sanctity of human life at every stage.

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



“For it is in giving that we receive.”

~ St. Francis of Assisi

**Our Lady of Guadalupe: A Symbol of Faith, Unity, and Hope**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** holds a unique and beloved place in the hearts of millions, particularly in Latin America. Her appearance to **Saint Juan Diego** in 1531 near Mexico City marked a profound moment of faith and cultural transformation, symbolizing divine compassion and a call to unity.

In December 1531, a humble indigenous man named **Juan Diego** encountered a vision of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** on the hill of **Tepeyac**, near present-day Mexico City. She appeared to him with dark skin and features resembling those of the native population, speaking to him in **Nahuatl**, his native language.

Mary identified herself as the **Mother of the True God** and asked Juan Diego to request that the local bishop build a church in her honor on the site. The bishop, skeptical of Juan’s story, asked for a sign to prove the authenticity of the apparition.

On **December 12th**, Mary appeared to Juan Diego again and directed him to gather **Castilian roses** blooming miraculously on the hillside—a place where flowers were not known to grow in winter. Juan carried the roses in his **tilma** (cloak) to the bishop. When he opened the cloak, the flowers fell to the floor, revealing a miraculous image of **Our Lady** imprinted on the fabric. The bishop, deeply moved, recognized this as a divine sign and ordered the construction of the church.



In an age of division and social challenges, Our Lady of Guadalupe’s message of hope and unity remains profoundly relevant. She reminds us of God’s presence in our lives and calls us to care for the marginalized, protect life, and build a world of justice and peace.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!**



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.**



**Knights of Columbus**

The K of C December Council meeting is on **Monday December 9, 2024** at **7:00 pm** in the church hall.

**All Brother Knights are welcome and encouraged to attend.**



### Report for the months of August—December 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

## SUNDAY MISSAL

2024 – 2025



LivingwithChrist

### 2025 Missals

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

A donation is greatly appreciated.



## CWL Food Drive



The Catholic Women's League will be collecting non-perishable food items for the High River Food Bank beginning **November 13 to December 11.**

**Food items can be brought in anytime and placed in the Christmas boxes located in the church hall.**



Please join us on **December 8, 2024** at **7:00 pm** at the High River United Church for the annual joint **Advent Carol Service.**

This is a joint service provided by some of the churches in High River.  
**All are welcome!**



## ADVENT

Advent is a liturgical season in the Catholic Church that marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The term "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." It is a period of preparation, anticipation, and hope, focusing on the coming of Jesus Christ.

### Advent has a dual focus:

**First Coming:** Remembering and preparing for the historical birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

**Second Coming:** Anticipating Christ's return in glory at the end of time (Parousia).

### The season emphasizes three key themes:

**Hope** (for Christ's coming),

**Peace** (of Christ's reign),

**Preparation** (through repentance and spiritual growth).

### Traditions of Advent:

#### Advent Wreath:

**Symbolism:** A circular wreath made of evergreen branches symbolizes eternity. Four candles are placed on the wreath, one for each week of Advent. Each candle represents one theme: Hope, Peace, Joy (pink candle), and Love.

**Weekly Lighting:** A new candle is lit each Sunday, culminating in the lighting of the Christ Candle at Christmas.

#### Liturgical Colors:

**Violet (Purple):** Signifies penance, preparation, and royalty.

**Rose (Pink):** Used on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday) to represent joy and anticipation.

#### Advent Calendar:

A daily calendar leading up to Christmas helps mark the days and often includes small prayers or activities to foster spiritual reflection.

#### Rorate Masses:

As mentioned earlier, these early morning Masses honor the Virgin Mary and emphasize the light of Christ coming into the world.

Advent invites all of us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. This involves prayer, penance, and acts of charity. It's a time to reconnect with the core of the Christian faith and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation—God becoming human. In a world often filled with uncertainty, Advent fosters a sense of hope in the promise of Christ's return and the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Similar to Lent, Advent calls for a spiritual renewal and examination of one's life, encouraging repentance and transformation.

Advent is a season of joyful anticipation, spiritual preparation, and deep reflection on the mystery of Christ's coming. It reminds the faithful of the light of Christ breaking into the darkness of the world, bringing hope, peace, and salvation. By engaging in Advent traditions, Catholics strengthen their faith and prepare their hearts to receive Christ more fully at Christmas and at the end of time.



## 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.

### Key Features and Symbolism:

#### 1. Timing:

The Rorate Mass is celebrated early in the morning, often before dawn. The symbolism reflects the Advent theme of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ, both in the Incarnation and at the end of time.

#### 2. Candlelight:

The Mass is typically held by candlelight, symbolizing the darkness of the world before the birth of Christ, who is the "Light of the World." The gradual increase in light as dawn breaks mirrors the coming of Christ's light into the world.

#### 3. Marian Focus:

The Mass emphasizes Mary's role in salvation history, particularly her "yes" to God, which brought Christ into the world. Special Marian prayers and hymns are included.

#### 4. Liturgical Vestments:

The celebrant wears white vestments (instead of the typical violet of Advent), signifying joy and purity, in honor of the Virgin Mary.

### Historical Background:

Originating in medieval Europe, the Rorate Mass became a deeply rooted tradition, especially in German-speaking and Eastern European countries. It is still popular in these regions, with many faithful gathering in the early hours during Advent for this solemn yet hopeful celebration.

### Spiritual Significance:

The Mass serves as a reminder of:

- The need for spiritual preparation during Advent.
- The expectant waiting for Christ's birth.
- The role of Mary in the Incarnation.

It's a beautiful tradition that invites reflection on both personal faith and the collective anticipation of the Savior's arrival.

**In our parish Rorate Masses will be celebrated  
at 7:00 AM on Dec. 14th and 21st**





## The Feast of the Immaculate Conception 8 of December

The roots of the celebration of the Immaculate Conception can be traced back to early Christian thought and devotion. The concept of Mary's purity and sinlessness was widely believed among early Christians, particularly in the writings of the Church Fathers. St. Ephrem the Syrian (4th century) and St. Augustine (5th century) described Mary as the "New Eve," free from sin and a pure vessel chosen by God.

In the Eastern Church, by the 7th century, there was already a feast known as the "Conception of St. Anne", which honored the conception of Mary by her mother, Saint Anne. This celebration emphasized the special role Mary played in God's plan of salvation. The feast gradually spread to the Western Church, especially gaining popularity in England by the 11th century, where it was known as the "Feast of the Conception of Mary."

Throughout the Middle Ages, the doctrine faced theological scrutiny and debate. The central question revolved around original sin: How could Mary be conceived without it when all humanity, according to St. Paul, inherits this condition?

St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Thomas Aquinas initially expressed reservations, believing that Christ's redemptive act applied universally and equally.

- However, Blessed John Duns Scotus, a Franciscan theologian in the 13th century, introduced the concept of "preservative redemption." He proposed that Mary was preserved from original sin by the merits of Christ's future sacrifice. This idea gained widespread acceptance and laid the foundation for the formal doctrine.

### Papal Recognition and Doctrine Proclamation

The turning point came in 1476, when Pope Sixtus IV approved the feast for the Roman Church, acknowledging its importance but without defining it as official doctrine. Over time, devotion to the Immaculate Conception grew, particularly among the Franciscans and Jesuits.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX officially declared the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith in the papal bull "Ineffabilis Deus." He proclaimed:

"The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

This declaration affirmed the long-held belief and solidified December 8th as the universal feast day of the Immaculate Conception.

Today, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception remains deeply significant for Catholics worldwide. It celebrates Mary's purity and her unique role in salvation history, reflecting God's prevenient grace and the power of redemption. The doctrine highlights:

1. God's initiative: The Immaculate Conception emphasizes that God's grace can transform and sanctify humanity.
2. Mary's role: As the Mother of God, Mary's sinless nature made her a fitting vessel for the incarnation of Christ. Her "yes" (fiat) to God's plan serves as an example of faith and obedience.

### Contemporary Relevance

1. Call to Holiness: The feast reminds believers of their own call to holiness. Mary's purity is a model of virtue, encouraging Christians to strive for moral integrity and spiritual purity.
2. Hope and Grace: In a world marked by struggles and sin, the Immaculate Conception offers a message of hope—that through God's grace, transformation and renewal are possible.
3. Marian Devotion: The celebration fosters a deeper devotion to Mary, encouraging prayer and intercession. Many Catholics recite the Rosary or participate in processions, reflecting on her virtues and seeking her guidance.

In many countries, the feast is a public holiday, particularly in Catholic nations such as Spain, Italy, and the Philippines. Special Masses, processions, and community events mark the occasion. The celebration also holds a special place in Lourdes, France, where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858 and identified herself as the "Immaculate Conception."

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is more than a historical or liturgical tradition; it is a profound reminder of God's grace and Mary's singular role in the story of salvation. Its continued celebration calls the faithful to reflect on purity, humility, and the transformative power of divine love, making it a cornerstone of Catholic spirituality in the modern world.



# Dec. 1– 31, 2024

Dec. 1	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	St. Andrew's CWL Sisters Our Parish
Dec. 2	9:00 am	Katherine Curzon
Dec. 3	7:00 pm	John Dawson †
Dec. 4	4:00 pm 6:00 pm	<b>No Mass</b> Bereavement Mass
Dec. 5	9:15 am	Tony & Adeline Mayer †
Dec. 6	9:15 am	Frank Charette †
Dec. 7	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Kelvin Holitzki † Darlene Gillis †
Dec. 8	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish John Dawson †
Dec. 9	9:00 am	Pauline Millard
Dec. 10	7:00 pm	Graeson Rosell
Dec. 11	4:00 pm (HR Hospital) 6 :00 pm	Ella Fung † SFDS CWL Sisters
Dec. 12	9:15 am	Sharon McLean
Dec. 13	9:15 am	Doug McLaughlin
Dec. 14	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Grazyna Sak † Danny & Mary Rehak †
Dec. 15	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Ryan Baldwin
Dec. 16	9:00 am	Grazyna Sak †
Dec. 17	7:00 pm	Grazyna Sak †
Dec. 18	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 4:15 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Cathy Nesselbeck † Fr. Mariusz Theresa Fallows †
Dec. 19	9:15 am 4:00 pm—(The Manor)	George & Antonina Sztuk † Fr. Mariusz
Dec. 20	9:15 am	Jesse Walton †
Dec. 21	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Geeaert Family † Wendell & Noelle Hoffart
Dec. 22	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Evelyn Hardwick † Our Parish
Dec. 23	9:00 am	Van Wezel Family †
Dec. 24	5:00 pm 9:00 pm Midnight	Our Parish Doug Haugen † Theresa Fallows †
Dec. 25	11:00 am	For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Dec. 26	9:15 am	Pat Farrell & Family †
Dec. 27	9:15 am	Paul-Emile & Lillian Busque †
Dec. 28	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Robert Martin Christianson † Mary Carter †
Dec. 29	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Ricardo & Victor Mejia †
Dec. 30	9:00 am	Evan Salisbury
Dec. 31	5:00 pm Midnight	June Rivard Theresa Fallows †



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