



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



1 DECEMBER 2024

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office

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Email: droseabramson@gmail.com

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Sunday of Advent

December
1, 2024



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Jeremiah 33: 14-16) In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see [2 Samuel 7:16](#); [Jeremiah 33:17](#); [Psalm 89:4-5](#); [27-38](#)). .

Second Reading: (1 Thessalonians 3:12,4:2) We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Gospel: (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36) Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end-times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near" (see [Luke 21:31](#)). <https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections> for more info.

Without you we are sunk

A little boy offered up a Thanksgiving Day prayer for the family and prayed: "Dear God, this is Jimmy. Thank you for Thanksgiving and Christmas and all of the holidays. Thank you for the turkey and dressing and Mom and Dad and even for my little sister, even though some times she can be a pain. Thank you for books and TV and Game Boy. Thank you for loving us. Oh, yeah. And take care of yourself, God. Because without you, we're sunk. Amen."

No matter what timetable we come up with. No matter what schedule or interpretation of schedules we come up with for the Second Coming, God is still in control. Jesus said, "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

As an heir, claim that promise, too. We're simply called to be aware and keep watch through saying, "Yes," to the King.



Salvatorian Fathers

1450 Della Avenue, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5B 3G2
Telephone: (604) 299-3814 Fax: (604) 299-3824

Burnaby, Nov 8, 2024

Rev. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS,
St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish
206-9th Avenue West
High River, AB T1V 1A4

Dear Father Mariusz,
and Parishioners of St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish,

On behalf of the Salvatorian Fathers in Canada I would like to wholeheartedly thank you for your generous donation of \$695.80 towards our seminary fund. Thanks to generosity of people of God, the Salvatorian Father are able to continue the formation of priests and brothers who are sent to all corners of the world which was the very desire and charism of our Founder Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan:

As long as there is one person on earth who does not know God and does not love Him above all things, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest. As long as God is not everywhere glorified, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest!

Be also assured of the Salvatorians' gratitude and prayers which we offer for our living and diseased benefactors and collaborators.

Yours in the Divine Saviour,

Fr. Maciej Was SDS
Fr. Maciej Was SDS
Superior



*I will not allow myself
to be so absorbed in the
whirlwind of work as
to forget about God.*

— St. Faustina Kowalska



Advent Penitential Service

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

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. 7th, 14th and 21st



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!



APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Eve of Holy Saturday	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Holy Saturday of the Paschal Cycle	14	15	16	17 Eve of Easter	18 Easter Sunday	19
20 Easter Monday	21 Easter Tuesday	22 Easter Wednesday	23 Easter Thursday	24 Easter Friday	25 Easter Saturday	26
27 Eve of Ascension	28	29 Ascension	30 Trinity Sunday			

**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



OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 All Saints	2 St. Martin	3	4 St. Francis
5 St. Elizabeth	6	7 St. Ignace	8	9	10	11
12 St. Joseph	13	14	15 St. Andrew	16 St. Raphael	17 St. Lawrence	18 St. Peter
19 St. Matthew	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 St. Mark	27	28 St. John	29	30	31	

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




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.



DIOCESAN ADVENT RENEWAL MISSION

Renewed IN HOPE



DEC TUE 3 Speaker Brett Powell FORM MISSIONARY DISCIPLES IN CHRIST	DEC WED 4 Speaker Bishop Scott McCaig BE A CHURCH OF ENCOUNTER AND WITNESS	DEC THU 5 Speaker Mary Rose Bacani Valenti STRENGTHEN FAMILY LIFE
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TIME: 7 PM TO 8:30 PM

IN-PERSON PARISH GATHERING WITH LIVE REMOTE SPEAKERS

Location: [St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Hall]

YOU ARE called
YOU WANT TO BELONG

Diocesan Advent Renewal Mission

There is a change in Mass Times and Adoration next week as we will be having the Renewal in Hope Advent Mission.

The Mission will be starting at **7:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.**

Mass & Adoration Times for Next Week

Tuesday—Mass at 6:00 pm
Wednesday— Mass at 6:00 pm
Thursday—Adoration—9:45 am—6:00 pm

Please join us for this Advent Renewal Mission.

All Welcome!



Obituary for William "Bill" Joseph Ward

It is with great sadness that the family of Bill Ward of High River, AB, announce his passing on November 24, 2024, at the age of 86 years.


A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at St Francis de Sales at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Foothills Country Hospice Society online at <https://fchs.givecloud.co/give>.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

SUNDAY MISSAL

2024 – 2025



Living with Christ

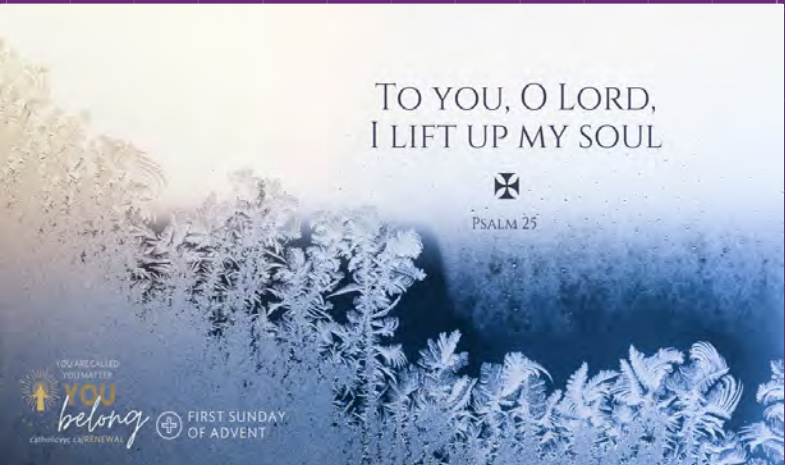
2025 Missals

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

A donation is greatly appreciated.

TO YOU, O LORD,
I LIFT UP MY SOUL

✠
PSALM 25



YOU ARE CALLED TO BELONG
YOU ARE CALLED TO BELONG
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ADVENT
CAROL
SERVICE

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!



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.

SUNDAY GOSPEL ACTIVITIES

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Luke 21:27



Visit CatholicMom.com for more resources for you and your family.
"The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together." - Venerable Patrick Peyton
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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	No Mass 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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