



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



8 SEPTEMBER 2024

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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Sacramental Prep : Nancy Barton
Email: francisdesales@shaw.ca

Music Coordinator: Donna Abramson
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

XXIII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 8, 2024



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 35:4-7) Mark also deliberately evokes Isaiah's promise, which we hear in today's First Reading, that God will make the deaf hear and the mute speak. He even uses a Greek word to describe the man's condition (*mogilalon* = "speech impediment") that's only found in one other place in the Bible—in the Greek translation of today's Isaiah passage, where the prophet describes the "dumb" singing.

Second Reading: (James 2:1-5) What He has done is to make all things new, a new creation (see [Revelation 21:1-5](#)). As Isaiah promised, He has made the living waters of Baptism flow in the desert of the world. He has set captives free from their sins, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has come that rich and poor might dine together in the Eucharistic feast, as James tells us in today's Epistle.

Gospel: (Mark 7:31-37) The incident in today's Gospel is recorded only by Mark. The key line is what the crowd says at the end: "He has done all things well." In the Greek, this echoes the creation story, recalling that God saw all the things He had done and declared them good (see [Genesis 1:31](#)).

<https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections> for more info.

Who knocked down the walls of Jericho

The priest walked through the School one week and stopped into the 4th grade class. While there, he decided to see what the kids were grasping. "Joey," he said, "who knocked down the walls of Jericho?" Joey said, "Don't look at me, father, I didn't do it!" The priest looked at the teacher for an explanation. "Well, father, if Joey said he didn't do it, he didn't do it."

The priest brought that story to the Parish Council, and when they heard it, the congregational president said, "Father, let's just fix the walls and take it out of the property budget."

I DIDN'T DO IT!!

A PRAYER FOR OUR TEACHERS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING TEACHERS
WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES
TO SERVE OUR CHILDREN.
AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE NEW YEAR,
FILL THEM WITH STRENGTH TO LEAD,
GRACE TO GUIDE AND HOPE TO THRIVE
IN THEIR CLASSROOM.
BLESS THEM BEYOND MEASURE
FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS
TO POUR INTO THE NEXT
GENERATION THROUGH EDUCATION. AMEN



1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist

2024/2025

The registration link is open online to register your child for **1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion** starting **July 1st**. Your child must be in Grade 2-6 for this Sacrament. (**please note: deadline for registration is October 5, 2024**)

Please go to our website to register for these Sacraments
<https://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com/index.php/en/services/eucharist>

The **Parent Info Sessions** for 1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist is **September 21, at 6:00 pm in the church.**



Confirmation 2024/2025

The registration link is open online to register your child for **1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion** starting **July 1st**.

Your child must be in Grade 7-12 for this Sacrament. (**please note: deadline for registration is October 19, 2024**)

Please go to our website to register for these Sacraments
<https://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com/index.php/en/services/eucharist>

The **Parent Only Info Sessions** for 1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist is **September 28, at 6:00 pm**

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at the church office by phone: 403-652-2203 or by email: francisdesales@shaw.ca



Holy Spirit Academy Opening Mass

Everyone is welcome to join the students and staff at the Holy Spirit Academy Opening Mass on **September 10, 2024, 9:30 am in the school gym.**



CONGRATULATIONS!

Gracyn Sekura is all smiles as she receives the CWL Scholarship from Joanne Van Donzel and Susan Horn.

Gracyn will begin her studies this Fall in the field of Neuroscience.



Funeral of Mr. John Dawson

Mr. John Dawson of High River, Alberta passed away peacefully at the Foothills Country Hospice on August 13, 2024 at the age of 80 years. John is survived by his sisters Fran Dudley and Ann Hall, and brother Norm Dawson.

John was born in Montreal, PQ. John was the second youngest of a large family, he had 4 brothers and 5 sisters growing up. John began his adult life as a Ski Instructor starting in Quebec and eventually bringing him to Kelowna, BC. Through the many friends made during this time, John had the opportunity to travel to different countries in Europe as well as Japan.

John spent his time in Kelowna working at Big White Ski Resort in the winter and Gallagher's Canyon Golf Club in the summer. John became a Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant and moved to Salmon Arm where he worked at a long-term care facility. Once John retired, he continued to volunteer at the same facility for over 15 years.

John moved to High River, AB in 2020 to be closer to family living in the Foothills area. John loved playing Tennis and would regularly play with his family and friends he made.

John was a very dedicated Catholic and was an active member at St. Joseph's in Salmon Arm and St. Francis de Sales in High River. His faith led John to do extensive travelling, making several trips to Medjugorje, often with his brother Fabian (Flip) and sister-in-law Noella.

John was a friend, a brother and an uncle. He had many nieces and nephews who he loved and he was loved by all of them as the incredibly fun and cool, Uncle Johnny.

John and his family would like to extend their gratitude to the amazing staff and volunteers at the Foothills Country Hospice for all of their care and support during his time there. Also, to the Alberta Health Services home care workers for their guidance and assistance.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, September 20th at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in High River.



Invitation

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE

The world is at a crossroad. God is more offended than ever as people ignore Our Lady's maternal request to "stop offending God." Yes, we must listen to Our Lady's request and stop sinning if we hope to enjoy God's blessings and to avert His wrath. He will hear us, if we pray through the intercession of His Blessed Mother. That's why we're doing the Public Square Rosary Crusade.

In *The Secret of the Rosary*, Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort said: "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering."

JOIN US FOR THE PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE TODAY!

What: THE HOLY ROSARY

Where: CORNER OF CENTRE ST & 3 AVE SE.

When: 12:00 p.m. SATURDAY OCT 12, 2024

For more information, contact:

NAME VALERIE SCHEY

PHONE NUMBER 403-808-7081

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Coordinated nationally by Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization and its *Canada Needs Our Lady* campaign
For questions or comments, e-mail us at Info@cno.org
Visit our website at www.cno.org
844-729-6279



Altar servers and Children's Choir- Meeting

We're looking for enthusiastic boys who have already received their First Holy Communion to be part of the Altar Servers Ministry and girls who love to sing to join us in the Children's Choir.

As an altar server, you'll help out during Holy Mass and other church services, showing that the whole parish and all the faithful are involved in the liturgical services. It's not just the priest's job - everyone plays a part!

If you're interested in Altar Serving, we're having an orientation meeting on Saturday, September 21 at 9:30 a.m. It's a great opportunity to learn more and get involved.

For more details about altar servers, you can reach out to Fr. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS. 403.992.2313

There is not a meeting for the Children's Choir at this time, but for information about joining the Children's Choir, feel free to contact Nancy in the church office at 403-652-2203 or email at francisdesales@shaw.ca and she will forward your name to Annah.

I am looking forward to having you on board!

Fr. Marius



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

SEPTEMBER 14

For Christians, the cross has always been sacred. As St. Paul put it, "The Greeks seek wisdom, the Jews demand signs, and we, as Christians, boast of the cross of Christ." From the very beginning, Jesus' disciples have been looking at the cross, which reminds them of the Lord, not only killed, but above all risen. The cross illustrates God's love and His saving power. It has always been a sign of consolation in distress and a longing for "being with Christ."

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Lord's Cross is celebrated by the Church on September 14. It commemorates the dedication of the Basilica of the Martyrs, also known as the Basilica of the Cross.

Before the beginning of the fourth century, Christians were not allowed to openly profess their faith, and Christianity developed in secret due to periods of bloody persecution. It was only after the Edict of Milan by Emperor Constantine in 313 that Christianity emerged publicly. Emperor Constantine's mother, St. Helena, went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and ordered the search for the cross on which Jesus died.

The cross was reportedly found on September 13 or 14, 326. Following this, the Basilica of the Martyrs (Martyrium) was built on Golgotha, and the Basilica of the Resurrection (Anastasis) at the site of the tomb. On September 13, 335, both basilicas were consecrated and handed over to the bishop. The next day, on September 14, the relics of the Holy Cross found a few years earlier were displayed to the public -- marking the first public adoration of the Cross.

These events are documented by the nun Egeria in her "Itinerarium Egeriae," where she mentions the dedication of both basilicas connected with the anniversary of the discovery of the relics of the Holy Cross. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross itself was initially introduced for churches that had relics of the Cross, and later extended to the entire Church.

In 614 A.D., the Persians invaded the Holy Land, destroying all the churches and taking away the Lord's Cross. The relics were returned after Emperor Heraclius' victory over the Persian army in 628. Legend has it that the emperor himself wanted to carry the Cross of Christ to Calvary, but could not go further than the city gates. The bishop advised him to remove his imperial robes, and barefoot, in coarse clothes, he brought the relics to the Basilica of the Cross, rebuilt after the destruction. However, it is a legend, as Cyril of Jerusalem, who died in the 4th century, mentions that at his time, the cross was divided into small relics and sent to all the surrounding churches.

The largest relic of the Holy Cross is now in the Church of St. Gudula in Brussels. In St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the relics that the Byzantine emperors wore on their chests during the greatest celebrations are kept. Large relics are also in the Roman Basilica of the Holy Cross.

Many saints showed a special devotion to the Passion of Christ and to the Holy Cross, and some were even graced with stigmata.

Since the first century, we have seen images of the cross depicted in various forms. The oldest cross found in a house was discovered in Herculaneum, buried by the volcano Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Since the 4th century, we have seen crosses without the figure of Jesus, richly decorated with precious stones. Realistic depictions of the scenes of Jesus' death on the cross have been made since the twelfth century. For Christians, the cross of Christ should be a sign of testimony and a confession of faith, rather than simply an element of interior decoration or personal jewelry.

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!



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TIME SUPPORTING A MOST IMPORTANT
CAUSE - LIFE!**



SFDS HELPING HANDS

Report for the months of April—August 2024

The St. Francis de Sales Ministry has helped a total number of **6** people for the months of April to August 2024.

We paid out a total of **\$6,157.50** for bills, rent, or mortgages, as well, we gave a total of **\$325.00** in fuel cards, and **\$300.00** in grocery cards. The total assistance we have given this period is **\$6,782.50**

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



SFDS Finance Council Meeting

There will be a Finance Council meeting on September 10, 2024, after the 7:00 pm mass.



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.



Bible Study will be starting on September 4, 2024, From 6:45 pm—8:30 pm. If you would like to sign up, please call Nancy in the office at 403-652-2203 or email her at francisdesales@shaw.ca

*“For it is
in
giving
that
we
receive.”
~ St. Francis of Assisi*

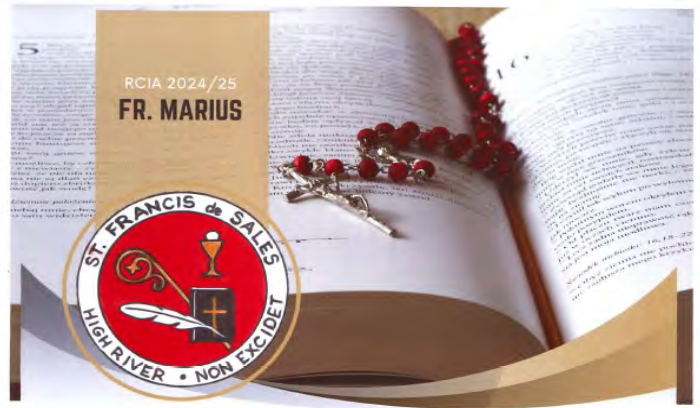


FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

To Register, please go to www.francisdesaleshighriver.com or phone the office at 403.652.2203

Parents Meeting
September 21 at 6:00 PM
at the Church

Fr. Marius



RCIA 2024/25
FR. MARIUS



R.C.I.A PROGRAM



First Meeting

26 September 2024 Thursday at 7:00 PM

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE ON THURSDAYS (PARISH HALL) FROM 7-00 - 8:30 PM



St. Francis De Sales Parish

UNDERSTAND THE ENTIRE BIBLE!

The Bible Timeline™



A 24-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING
JEFF CAVINS



Dates - Times - Location

The initial meeting is scheduled for September 4 at 6:45 PM. Subsequent sessions will continue every Wednesday from 6:45 PM until 8:30 PM in our Parish Hall.

Cost - Registration

The cost of the workbook and other materials will be about \$50.

For More Information

Please contact Fr. Marius at:
dzambel@me.com
Cell: 403.992.2313
Or Parish Office at:
francisdesales@shaw.ca
Phone: 403.652.2203

In *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation*, presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end.

Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.

The Bible Timeline will teach you how to read and understand the Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of the Bible in a way that will transform your life.

I never would have read the Bible if it wasn't for this, and now I simply adore Scripture. It has given me such insight into the Catholic faith and helps me to understand its true beauty.

—Kyley D.



Visit www.francisdesaleshighriver.com to learn more!



To Register, please go to www.francisdesaleshighriver.com or phone the Office at 403.652.2203

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Parents Meeting,, September 28 at 6:00 PM at the Church



Sept. 1– 30, 2024

Sept. 1	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	St. Andrew's CWL Sisters Our Parish
Sept. 2	9:00 am	Darlene Gillis †
Sept. 3	7:00 pm	Darlene Gillis †
Sept. 4	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass
Sept. 5	9:15 am	Wayne Chayer †
Sept. 6	9:15 am	Dolores Miller †
Sept. 7	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Deacon Larry Driver Frank Sekura †
Sept. 8	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Tony Van Wezel †
Sept. 9	9:00 am	Owen Abma
Sept. 10	7:00 pm	Bob Richer †
Sept. 11	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Mary Ann SFDS CWL Sisters
Sept. 12	9:15 am	Doreen McMillan
Sept. 13	9:15 am	Ray & Sybil Schey †
Sept. 14	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Dolores Miller † Danny & Mary Rehak †
Sept. 15	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Steve Abma
Sept. 16	9:00 am	Diane Chayer
Sept. 17	7:00 pm	Dolores Miller †
Sept. 18	3:15 pm (Seasons HR) 6 :00 pm	Donald Trump & Family Wayne Chayer †
Sept. 19	9:15 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
Sept. 20	9:15 am	Theresa Fallows †
Sept. 21	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Wayne Chayer † Jason Sekura & Family
Sept. 22	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Jill Barton †
Sept. 23	9:00 am	Annah Baldwin
Sept. 24	7:00 pm	Bob Lainchbury †
Sept. 25	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	David Hagel † Wayne Chayer †
Sept. 26	9:15 am	Theresa Fallows †
Sept. 27	9:15 am	Bob Lainchbury †
Sept. 28	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Danny & Marie Rehak † Tim McLean †
Sept. 29	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Jay Louise † Our Parish
Sept. 30	9:00 am	Bob Lainchbury †



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