



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



2 FEBRUARY 2025

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



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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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



The Presentation Of The Lord

Sunday Reading

The Presentation in the Temple

Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 24:7,8,9,10

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke:2:22-40

As February 2 falls on a Sunday this year, we are celebrating the Presentation of the Lord at the Lord's Day Masses this weekend. The Presentation is observed 40 days after Christmas. The meeting in the Temple of Jerusalem, of Mary and Joseph, bearing the Infant Jesus, with Simeon celebrates Christ as the light to enlighten all nations. The episode is described in chapter 2 of the Gospel of St. Luke whose narration of the Presentation combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn.



St. Luke explicitly says that Joseph and Mary take the option provided for poor people (those who could not afford a lamb), sacrificing a pair of turtledoves. "The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." On meeting the Holy Family, Simeon utters the prayer that would become known as the Canticle of Simeon (known in Latin as the Nunc Dimittis), which prophesies the redemption of the world by Jesus. The elderly prophetess Anna was also in the Temple, and offered prayers and praise to God for Jesus, and spoke to everyone there of his importance to redemption in Jerusalem."

Knights of Columbus

"The Knights of Columbus are selling tickets on the score of the Super Bowl game with all profits going to the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

Renewal Meeting

"The St. Francis de Sales Parish Renewal Team will present the key takeaways from the 2024 parishioner survey. We want to share our insights on the survey results and discuss some of the feedback we have already received.

- A Q&A session will follow the presentation.
- Presentation Date: Tuesday, February 4, after the evening Mass

We hope to see you there!"

The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the German Nazi Concentration Camp Auschwitz

January 27, 2025, marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the German concentration camp Auschwitz by the Red Army. This is one of the most significant events in the history of the 20th century, reminding us of the tragedy of millions who fell victim to the atrocities of the totalitarian regime. This day has been established as International Holocaust Remembrance Day to ensure the world never forgets this human tragedy.

The Auschwitz concentration camp was established by the German authorities in May 1940 in Oświęcim, Poland. Initially, it was intended to detain Polish political prisoners, but over time, it became one of the main centers for the extermination of Jews, Roma, prisoners of war, and other groups deemed enemies of the Third Reich. The camp operated for nearly five years, until January 1945. It is estimated that approximately 1.1 million people were murdered in Auschwitz, including around 1 million Jews, 70,000 Poles, 21,000 Roma, and prisoners of other nationalities.

“God of our fathers, You chose Abraham and his descendants to bring Your name to the nations. We are saddened by the behavior of those who, in the course of history, have caused these children of Yours to suffer, and asking your forgiveness, we commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the covenant.”

Sinti and Roma Victims

The Holocaust also claimed the lives of Sinti and Roma people. Like the Jews, they were first deprived of their rights and then murdered. In December 1942, a “Gypsy camp” was established at Auschwitz. Few people know that 90% of the deported Roma and Sinti were Catholics. Recently, the Archbishop of Munich, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, acknowledged the moral failure of the Church leadership in the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising in helping Sinti and Roma during the Nazi dictatorship.

Memory and Message

The anniversary of Auschwitz’s liberation is a time for reflection on history and responsibility for the future. The testimonies of figures such as St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Edith Stein, her sister Rosa, and Sister Angela Autsch teach us that even in the darkest moments, we can remain faithful to the values of love, faith, and solidarity.

Looking at today’s global conflicts, we often forget about past genocides and human tragedies. Therefore, it is all the more important for us, as Catholics and people of goodwill, to remind not only younger generations but also ourselves about these events.

May this anniversary remind us of the need to build a world based on respect for every human being, regardless of nationality, faith, or origin. “Never again”—this call must resonate in our hearts and actions.



Father Maximilian Maria Kolbe



In Auschwitz, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, a Franciscan friar, gave his life and earned the title “Martyr of Love.” Father Kolbe, born in 1894 in Zduńska Wola, was a man of deep faith, devoted to the Virgin Mary, and actively involved in the development of the Militia Immaculatae movement. During the war, he was

arrested by the Gestapo for helping Jews and Polish refugees.

In July 1941, Kolbe voluntarily offered his life in exchange for a fellow prisoner, Franciszek Gajowniczek, who had been condemned to death by starvation. His heroic act of love and sacrifice for another became a symbol of hope and the triumph of good over evil. In 1982, Maximilian Kolbe was canonized by Pope John Paul II as a martyr.

Edith Stein and Rosa Stein

Edith Stein, also known as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, was a prominent philosopher and Jewish woman who converted to Catholicism. Born in 1891 in Wrocław, she was one of the most significant students of Edmund Husserl, the founder of phenomenology. Her spiritual journey led her to the Catholic Church, where she became a Carmelite nun.

In 1942, Edith and her sister Rosa, who also converted to Catholicism, were arrested by the Gestapo in the Netherlands due to their Jewish heritage. In August of the same year, the sisters were deported to Auschwitz, where they perished in the gas chambers.

Edith Stein was canonized in 1998 by Pope John Paul II and proclaimed a co-patroness of Europe in 1999.



Angela Maria Autsch – “The Angel of Auschwitz”

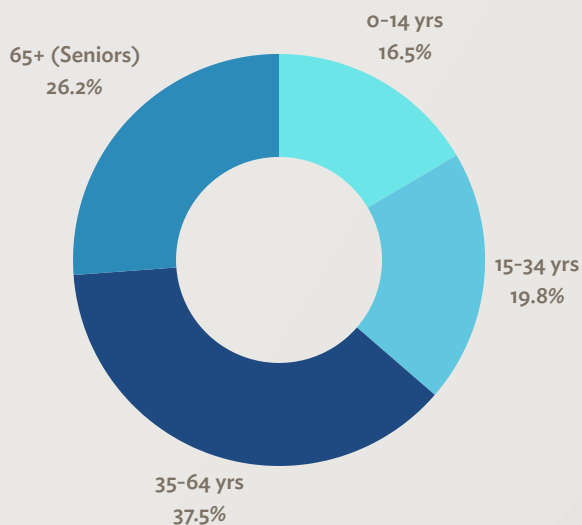
In 1944, Angela Maria Autsch, a nun from Westphalia known as “The Angel of Auschwitz,” also perished in Auschwitz. “Angela came to this house of madness like the smile of dawn, like a ray of sunshine. Amidst the terrible suffering, she created an island of tenderness,” wrote a Jewish doctor, herself a prisoner in the concentration camp, about the work of Sister Angela of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The beatification process for Sister Angela Autsch is ongoing.





Community

Jesus personally calls **each one of us** to follow Him and to remain by His side, for He deeply loves us. Empowered by His grace, these words become the very message we desire to proclaim to every member of our faith community and the world. Who are the members of our parish family?



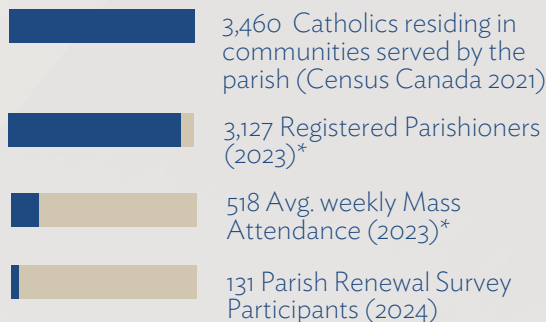
Age demographic

Age demographics of the population served by the parish (Census Canada, 2021)

People of God

18,060

Population of the communities served by the parish (Census Canada 2021)



*Numbers are taken from the Annual Pastoral Report submitted by the parish.

Serving Parish Life | Community

Formation of a vibrant and supporting community

- Catholic Women's League
- Couples for Christ
- Knights of Columbus
- Hospitality
- Prayer Chain
- Volunteers
- Youth Group

We are the Body of Christ

The renewal of our faith community relies on the primacy of grace, prayer and worship, communion, faith formation, outreach, and leadership within every parish.

St. Francis de Sales, established in 1937, replaced a chapel that had served the area for years. After the original building was rebuilt, parishioners celebrated its reopening on April 28, 1995, followed by a blessing from Bishop Eugene LaRocque on October 8.

Today, the parish is more than just a place for services; it's a "family of families," a community bound by shared faith, which cannot be lived or professed in isolation.

Parish Boundary

The parish serves the following communities: Azure, Blackie, Brant, Cayley, Eltham, Ensign, Herronton, High River, Longview, Mazeppa, Millarville, Pekisko, Royalties, Carmangay, Kirkcaldy, Vulcan.

Catholic Schools

Catholic schools served by the parish:

- Notre Dame Collegiate
- Holy Spirit
- St. Luke's

Serving the Community

1
Priest

1
Deacon

3,127
Parishioners*

1
Full-time
Staff

1
Casual
Staff

* Numbers are taken from the Annual Pastoral Report submitted by the parish

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

JOHN 15:12



February 1– 28, 2025

Feb. 1	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Ruby Ben & Janet MacLeod †
Feb. 2	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Myrna Stokes
Feb. 3	9:00 am	Edna Horne
Feb. 4	7:00 pm	Katherine Curzon
Feb. 5	6 :00 pm	Bereavement Mass
Feb. 6	9:15 am	Bud
Feb. 7	9:15 am	Kyle Desjareles
Feb. 8	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Bob Lainchbury † Sickel Family †
Feb. 9	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Tim McLean †
Feb. 10	9:00 am	Matthew Curzon
Feb. 11	7:00 pm	Don Fallows †
Feb. 12	4:15 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Jensen Family SFDS CWL Sisters
Feb. 13	9:15 am	Benny Uchaz †
Feb. 14	9:15 am	Rosalina Bartolone †
Feb. 15	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Rebecca Enright & Austin Ho MacLeod Family †
Feb. 16	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Brijido & Delfina Mejia †
Feb. 17	9:00 am	Moyra Walton †
Feb. 18	7:00 pm	Cathie McNelis †
Feb. 19	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	Geroge & Antonina Sztuk † Theresa Fallows †
Feb. 20	9:15 am	Collen Kindt
Feb. 21	9:15 am	Don & Heather Baldwin
Feb. 22	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Sr. Marie Hagen † Fabian Family †
Feb. 23	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Pat MacDonald
Feb. 24	9:00 am	Zatko Family
Feb. 25	7:00 pm	Bob Lainchbury †
Feb. 26	4:00 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Kilmer Hagen † Rebecca Enright & Austin Ho
Feb. 27	9:15 am	Bella Family
Feb. 28	9:15 am	Stretch Family



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