



# St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN



Roman Catholic Parish  
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

16 FEBRUARY 2025



## Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish  
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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

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



February 16, 2025

## Sunday Readings

**First Reading:** (Jeremiah 17: 5-8) The blessings and woes we hear in today's Gospel mark the perfection of all the wisdom of the Old Testament. That wisdom is summed up with marvelous symmetry in today's First Reading and Psalm: Each declares that the righteous—those who hope in the Lord and delight in His Law—will prosper like a tree planted near living waters. The wicked, who put their “trust in human beings,” are cursed to wither and die.

**Second Reading:** (1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, 11) The promises of the Old Testament were promises of power and prosperity—in the here and now. The promise of the New Covenant is joy and true freedom even amid the misery and toil of this life. But not only that. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we're to be pitied if our hope is “for this life only.”

**Gospel:** (Luke 6:17, 20-26) The blessings of God mean that we'll laugh with the thanksgiving of captives released from exile (see [Psalm 126:1-2](#)), feast at the heavenly table of the Lord (see [Psalm 107:3-9](#)), “leap for joy” as John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb (see [Luke 6:23; 1:41, 44](#)), and rise with Christ, “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

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

## The Case of the Mysterious “Amen”

The Nowak family was well known in their parish for being a very devout and active Catholic family. Mr. and Mrs. Nowak had five children, all of whom had no choice but to attend Sunday Mass, say their prayers before meals, and participate in family Rosary night every Wednesday.

One evening, during their usual Rosary prayer, little Johnny, the mischievous six-year-old, had had enough.

As they were halfway through the second decade, Johnny suddenly shouted, “AMEN!” and immediately stood up.

His father looked at him suspiciously. “Johnny, we're not done yet.”

Johnny blinked innocently. “But Dad, I thought if you say ‘Amen,’ that means it's over.”

His mother sighed. “Nice try, young man. Sit down.”

Johnny groaned but sat back down, arms crossed.

A few minutes later, as they reached the fourth decade, their dog Max, who had been lying under the table, suddenly barked loudly.

Johnny's eyes lit up. “See? Even Max is saying ‘Amen!’”

His older sister giggled, and his father tried to keep a straight face. “Johnny, even if the dog barks ‘Amen,’ we still have to finish.”

Finally, when they reached the last “Hail Mary,” Johnny took a deep breath, determined to win the battle. As soon as the final “Amen” was said, he jumped up, threw his hands in the air, and shouted, “TOUCHDOWN!!!”

The whole family burst into laughter, and even his strict father had to wipe away a tear of amusement.

From that day on, every Wednesday, when they finished the Rosary, one of the Nowak kids would quietly whisper, “Touchdown.” And Johnny? Well, he became a legend in the family for turning prayer night into game night.



The office will be closed **Mon. Feb. 17th** for the Family Day Holiday.

Regular office hours will **resume Tues., Feb. 18th at 9:00 am.**

# SACRED Grace

CHURCH WEDDING FOR CIVILLY MARRIED COUPLES

Your love brought you together, but there's a grace that only God can give—a grace that transforms your union into a sacred bond, reflecting His eternal love. Let's celebrate the love God has planned for you!

All civilly married couples in the Diocese of Calgary are warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, presided over by **Bishop William T. McGrattan** on **Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 1:30 PM** at **St. Mary's Cathedral**.

JOIN THE INFO SESSION

- Sunday, Feb 9 at 6 pm  
St. Albert the Great, Calgary
- Thursday, March 6 at 6 pm  
St. Michael's, Calgary
- Sunday, Mar 9 at 6 pm  
St. Thomas More, Calgary
- Sunday, Mar 16 at 6 pm  
St. Patrick's, Calgary



MORE INFO & REGISTRATION  
[CATHOLICYC.CA/](http://CATHOLICYC.CA/)  
SACREDGRACE



## Mass Time Change

The Mass for this **Mon. Feb. 17th** will be at **6:00 pm** instead of **9:00 am**.

Regular **Mon., 9:00 am** masses will resume on

# BABY CLOTHES DRIVE

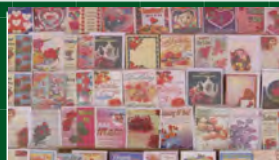
Collecting supplies for new mothers in need. Accepting donations of new and gently used baby clothing, diapers, and blankets, sized newborn to 24 months.

Please bring your items to the Church between Feb. 1 - March 16, 2025



**Mainspring's**  
Calgary  
Pregnancy Care Centre

Sponsored by High River Pro Life



## Greeting Cards, Christmas Cards & Stamps!

Not sure what to do with your stack of greeting cards? Did you know the **Diocesan Mission Council** collects used and unused greeting cards for donation for their card making program, which supports Overseas missions, as well they collect used stamps.

All donations can be dropped off at SFDS in the basket in the church hall.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy in the office, 403-652-2203, or email at francisdesaleshighriver.com



## YOU ARE INVITED

To 'LIVE-IN' AND GET TO KNOW JESUS!

A Live-In is a weekend retreat to grow in faith with Jesus.

Starts Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon.

The next retreat is March 21-23, 2025 in Okotoks



Please contact us e-mail [calgarylivein@telus.net](mailto:calgarylivein@telus.net) or Phone Valerie at 403-808-7081 for more information or to register.

If you have attended your own Live-In Retreat, come be the hands and feet of Jesus to others and serve.

The Calgary Live-In Retreat Society



### Yarn Donations

If you have any yarn you are not using, our parishioner Shirley is looking for donations so she can knit more toques for Kids in Ukraine and Christmas Child Shoebox.

Yarn donations can be dropped off at the church for Shirley to pick up. If you have any questions, please call the church office for more information—403-652-2203



### Game Night at SFDS

Come join us in building fellowship through an evening of intellectually stimulating board games.

Discover a world beyond mass-market like *Monopoly*, *Sorry!*, and *Uno*. Modern-day board games rely less on a lucky roll of the dice or the flip of a card, and more on good design that rewards thoughtful analysis and good decisions. These games can be a good alternative to chess, cribbage, or bridge.

**Friday, February 26, 2025 6:00 PM**—onwards in the Church Hall  
**Loose Itinerary:** Board gaming 101 orientation + Q&A (15 min.)

**Icebreaker game** (~30 min.)

**Main-event gaming** (remainder of evening)

To get the most out of the event, please arrive at the start time so you don't miss the orientation, Q&A, and snacks. Late-comers may need to wait for enough players to start a game.

Please note: modern games are not toys, and some are like Fr. Mariusz's motorbike—very expensive—thus, attendees are asked to treat the games with care and respect. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**For more information or to RSVP contact Rhona-Mae Arca at 403-803-6835.**

**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 **dontion@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!

**St. Francis de Sales 2025 Offering Envelopes**

Just a reminder that the 2025 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick up in the church hall.

If you do not have an assigned envelope #, but would like one, Please contact Nancy in the church office by phone, **403-652-2203** or email **francisdesales@shaw.ca**



“For it is in giving that we receive.”

~ St. Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis de Sales High River, AB

**Welcome**  
Thank You for joining us today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in:  
 Learning more about our ministry?  
 Having a visit from the pastor?  
 Joining our church?

How did you hear about us?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Francis de Sales Special Envelope Days**

- New Year's Day January 01, 2025
- SFDS Helping Hands February 09, 2025
- Together in Action April 06, 2025
- Needs of the Church in the Holy Land April 18, 2025
- Easter April 20, 2025
- Good Shepherd Sunday May 11, 2025
- SFDS Helping Hands May 18, 2025
- The Pope's Pastoral Works May 25, 2025
- Together in Action June 01, 2025
- SFDS Helping Hands June 08, 2025
- SFDS Helping Hands August 10, 2025
- Together in Action September 07, 2025
- SFDS Helping Hands September 14, 2025
- World Mission Sunday October 19, 2025
- Catholic Education Sunday November 02, 2025
- Together in Action November 09, 2025
- SFDS Helping Hands November 16, 2025
- Holy Childhood Sunday December 14, 2025
- Christmas December 25, 2025

Saint Francis de Sales High River, AB

**Welcome**  
Thank You for joining us today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in:  
 Learning more about our ministry?  
 Having a visit from the pastor?  
 Joining our church?

How did you hear about us?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.





Dear CWL Team,  
A heartfelt thank you for organizing the Wine and Cheese Tasting in our parish. It was a fantastic evening, and your efforts in putting everything together are truly appreciated. The event was well-organized, and everyone had a great time. I'm attaching a few pictures from the evening—hope they capture some of the joy and fellowship we shared!

Blessings,

Fr. Marius





**Invitation to a Meeting on Euthanasia  
(February 24th, 2025) at  
St. Francis De Sales Parish at 6:00 PM**

**Dear Parishioners**

I invite all of you to a meeting dedicated to the important topic of euthanasia. In light of the increasing number of euthanasia cases and the controversies surrounding MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying), which often appear in the media, it is essential for us as a Catholic community to understand what the Church's teaching says on this matter.

Euthanasia has become a subject of broad public debate, and its presence in the media often leads to misunderstandings and ambiguities. Many people may be confused about the moral, ethical and medical implications of this issue. Therefore, it is important for us to come together to discuss these matters in the context of our faith and the Church's teaching.

**The Church's Teaching on Euthanasia**

The Catholic Church clearly teaches that euthanasia is morally unacceptable. As stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Intentional euthanasia, whatever its forms or motives, is murder." Regardless of the circumstances, "direct euthanasia consists in ending the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons" and is "morally unacceptable". The Church also emphasizes that "even if death is considered inevitable, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted." This teaching reminds us of the dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God.

**Medical Perspective**

From a medical perspective, doctors have a duty to care for the life and health of their patients. In the context of terminal stages of illness, their role is to provide appropriate palliative care that alleviates suffering without hastening death. A meeting with a physician from our parish will allow for a discussion on how medicine can support patients in difficult times, as well as how to understand and implement the Church's teaching in medical practice.

**Open Questions and Discussion**

Everyone is encouraged to actively participate in the discussion. This meeting aims not only to impart knowledge but also to create a space for asking questions and sharing doubts. Together, we can delve into this important topic and better understand how our faith relates to contemporary challenges.

**Invitation to a Meeting with a Physician**

Additionally, we would like to invite all parishioners to a meeting with a physician from our parish, who will share his knowledge about euthanasia and answer questions regarding this controversial topic. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity for open discussion and understanding of how the Church's teaching relates to contemporary challenges in medicine. We encourage everyone to attend and actively participate in this important conversation.

Fr. Marius



**The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle is celebrated on February 22 and honors the authority and mission given by Christ to St. Peter and his successors.**

**What Does the "Chair" Mean?**

The "Chair" (Latin: *Cathedra*) is a symbol of the teaching authority of the pope, who as the Bishop of Rome is the successor of St. Peter. This feast is not about a physical chair but rather about the spiritual authority given to Peter when Jesus said:

**"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18)**

It highlights the unity of the Church under the pope's leadership and the mission of guiding the faithful in truth and love.

**Historical Background**

- The feast has been celebrated in Rome since at least the 4th century.
- There were originally two feast days—one on **January 18** (commemorating Peter's ministry in Rome) and another on **February 22** (his ministry in Antioch). Eventually, the February 22 date remained.
- The actual *cathedra* (chair) of St. Peter is housed in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The ornate reliquary surrounding it was designed by **Bernini** in the 17th century.

**Why Is This Feast Important?**

- It reminds Catholics of the pope's role as a shepherd and teacher of the universal Church.
- It calls for unity among believers under the guidance of the Holy Father.
- It encourages the faithful to pray for the pope and Church leaders.





MASS INTENTIONS

# 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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