



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

9 FEBRUARY 2025



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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



February 9, 2025

Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah: 6-4, 1-2a. 3-8) Simon Peter, the fisherman, is the first to be called personally by Jesus in Luke's Gospel. His calling resembles Isaiah's commissioning in the First Reading: confronted with the holiness of the Lord, both Peter and Isaiah are overwhelmed by a sense of their own sinfulness and inadequacy. Yet each experiences the Lord's forgiveness and is sent to preach the good news of His mercy to the world.

Second Reading: (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11) No one is "fit to be called an apostle," Paul recognizes in today's Epistle. But by "the grace of God," even a persecutor of the Church—as Paul once was—can be lifted up for the Lord's service.

Gospel: (Luke 5:1-11) Jesus has made us worthy to receive Him in the company of angels in God's holy Temple. On our knees like Peter, with the humility of David in today's Psalm, we thank Him with all our hearts and join in the unending hymn that Isaiah heard around God's altar: "Holy, holy, holy . . ." (see also [Revelation 4:8](#)).

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

A Little Humor: A Priest Visiting the Sick

Sometimes, even in the most serious of moments, humor can bring healing. One priest shared a story about visiting a parishioner in the hospital. As he entered the room, the patient grinned and said, "Father, I hope you're not here to give me last rites!" The priest chuckled and replied, "Not today—unless you insist!" Moments of laughter like these remind us that joy and hope often go hand-in-hand with healing.



Grace

SACRED
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/
SACREDGRACE



Mass Cancelled

The **Monday, February 10th 9:00 am** mass is cancelled, as Fr. Mariusz will be attending a funeral out of town.



The office will be closed **Monday February 10th** as Nancy will be at the Diocese for a workshop.

Regular office hours will **resume Tuesday, February 11th at 9:00 am**, however, Nancy will be at the Diocese again for a Workshop.

World Day of the Sick

In our parish, we will have a **special Mass dedicated to those who are sick and those who care for them.**

This Mass will be held on **Tuesday, February 11, at 7:00 PM**. We invite everyone to join us in prayer and solidarity.
Please come if you can!



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



Mainsprings Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre

Sponsored by High River Pro Life



Knights of Columbus®

The K of C 9521 January meeting will be on **Monday February 10, 2025, 7:00 pm** in the St. Francis de Sales Church hall.



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



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.

CWL General Meeting

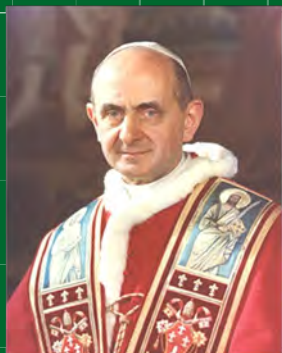
The CWL General meeting will be held this coming Wednesday, **Feb. 12th, at 6:30 pm** in the church hall.

Hope to see many in attendance.



If we truly wish to be Christians, we must love peace; we must make our own the cause of peace; we must meditate on the real meaning of peace; we must conform our minds to the thought of peace.

-St. Paul VI



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 **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.





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



World Day of the Sick 2025: A Time for Compassion and Healing

On February 11, 2025, the global Catholic community will once again observe the **World Day of the Sick**, a day dedicated to prayer, reflection, and acts of compassion

for those who are ill and for the caregivers who accompany them in their suffering. Established by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1992, this day coincides with the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**, a fitting tribute to the healing and hope associated with the Marian shrine in Lourdes, France.

Theme for 2025: "Caring for the Whole Person"

The Vatican's theme for this year, "**Caring for the Whole Person**," emphasizes the need to address the physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of illness. This theme reminds us that true healing goes beyond medical intervention and extends into the realm of human connection and spiritual nourishment.

In his message for the occasion, Pope Francis highlights the importance of seeing each sick person as an individual with dignity and worth, deserving of attentive care and love. He calls on healthcare professionals, families, and faith communities to prioritize compassionate service and holistic care, inspired by the example of Jesus Christ, who tended to the sick with mercy and tenderness.

The Role of Our Lady of Lourdes

The connection to **Our Lady of Lourdes** is profound. Since 1858, Lourdes has been a place of healing and miracles, where millions of pilgrims seek physical and spiritual restoration. The Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, bringing messages of prayer and repentance, and today the shrine remains a symbol of hope for the suffering.

For this reason, many parishes and dioceses mark the day with special **Masses, anointing of the sick**, and prayers for healing. In our parish, we will have a **special Mass dedicated to those who are sick and those who care for them**. This Mass will be held on **Tuesday, February 11, at 7:00 PM**. We invite everyone to join us in prayer and solidarity. Please come if you can!

Gratitude for Our Parish Pastoral Care Team

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our **Parish Pastoral Care Team** for the tremendous work they do in being present for those who are sick, homebound, or alone. They are truly the angels of hope for our parish, offering comfort, companionship, and love to those in need. Their dedication reflects the heart of Christ's mission, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

A Call to Action for the Faithful

World Day of the Sick serves as a reminder of the Gospel mandate to care for the least among us. It calls us to:

Pray for the Sick – Offer prayers for those suffering from illness and for the medical professionals who care for them.

Visit and Comfort – Reach out to friends, family members, or parishioners who are sick or isolated. A kind word or gesture can uplift their spirits.

Support Caregivers – Recognize the vital role of caregivers, whether professionals or family members, and offer them encouragement and practical help.

Advocate for Healthcare Justice – Advocate for equitable access to quality healthcare for all, especially for the marginalized and underprivileged.

Events Around the World

This year, many Catholic hospitals, charities, and parishes worldwide will hold events such as health fairs, free medical check-ups, and seminars on pastoral care for the sick. In addition, Pope Francis will preside over a special Mass at the Vatican, offering prayers for those suffering in body, mind, and spirit.

Conclusion

The **World Day of the Sick** invites all of us, whether or not we are directly affected by illness, to deepen our commitment to love and serve one another. It challenges us to bring hope, comfort, and healing into the lives of those who suffer, following the example of Christ, who is the divine physician of both body and soul.

As we reflect on this day, may we renew our resolve to become instruments of God's mercy, working together to build a world where every person receives the care, respect, and compassion they deserve.



The Life and Significance of St. Scholastica

On February 10 (Monday), the Church celebrates the Memorial of Saint Scholastica, a virgin whose life exemplifies pure love and service to God. As we honor her, we ask for the grace to follow her example, "that, following her example, we may serve you with pure love and happily receive what comes from loving you". St. Scholastica, the twin sister of St. Benedict, is a guiding

light for Benedictine nuns and a powerful intercessor for all who seek a deeper relationship with God.

St. Scholastica's life was marked by a profound dedication to God from her earliest years. The historical records reveal that "she had been dedicated from her infancy to Our Lord". Her close bond with her twin brother, St. Benedict, further shaped her spiritual journey. They shared not only a familial connection but also a deep commitment to seeking God's will in their lives. Scholastica would visit Benedict once a year, meeting "not far from the gate to a place that did belong to the abbey, there to give her entertainment".

St. Scholastica's most significant contribution to the Church was her role in establishing the first Benedictine community for women. Because she "was the twin sister of St. Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine monastic tradition, and dedicated her life to following the same spiritual ideals of prayer, community, and hospitality," she is the patron saint of Benedictine nuns. She embraced the Benedictine rule, mirroring her brother's dedication to a life of prayer, contemplation, and service. Her leadership and spiritual insight provided a foundation for female monastic life that continues to inspire women today.

One of the most memorable stories of St. Scholastica's life is her last visit with St. Benedict. As the narrative goes, "The sister begged her brother to stay the night, but by no persuasion would he agree unto that, saying that he might not by any means tarry all night out of his abbey". Scholastica, filled with a desire to continue their spiritual conversation, knelt in prayer. In response, "there fell suddenly such a tempest of lightning and thundering, and such abundance of rain, that neither venerable Bennet, nor the monks that were with him, could put their head out of door". This miraculous event demonstrated the power of her prayer and her deep connection with God, compelling Benedict to remain and continue their sacred dialogue.

St. Scholastica's death was as remarkable as her life. Three days after their final meeting, "Benedict beheld the soul of his sister, which was departed from her body, in the likeness of a dove, to ascend into heaven". Overjoyed at the sight of her glory, Benedict informed his monks and arranged for her body to be brought to his abbey. She was buried in the tomb he had prepared for himself, symbolizing their inseparable bond and shared devotion to God.

St. Scholastica holds a special place in the Catholic Church as the patron saint of Benedictine nuns. "Her deep devotion to God, combined with her close relationship with her brother, symbolized a shared spiritual mission and a commitment to the contemplative, disciplined life that defines the Benedictine order. Her role as a spiritual leader for women makes her a fitting patron for Benedictine nuns". Her life exemplifies the virtues of prayer, obedience, and a relentless pursuit of God, making her an inspiring figure for all believers.

St. Scholastica's life offers a powerful model for all Catholics striving for holiness. Blessed Nemesia Valle's words remind us that "Holiness does not consist in doing many things or great things.... Those who entirely spend themselves each day, wherever they are, for the Lord, are holy". St. Scholastica teaches us the importance of dedicating our lives to God through prayer, service, and a deep commitment to His will. Like Saints Benedict and Scholastica, each community is called to create a "God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord".

In conclusion, St. Scholastica's life is a testament to the transformative power of faith and dedication. "In her passionate love for Jesus, who led her on a path of intense prayer and torment and to identify herself increasingly with the mystery of the Cross, she offers us an attractive witness and a perfect example of a life totally dedicated to God and to her brothers and sisters". As we celebrate her memorial, let us strive to emulate her virtues, seeking a deeper relationship with God through prayer, service, and a commitment to living out His will in our daily lives.

O Mary, Queen of All Saints, pray for us that we may follow the example of St. Scholastica and grow in love and service to your Son.



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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