

St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN 13 APRIL 2025





Jesus humbled himself. Therefore God highly exalted him.

Office

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Contact Us

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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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



WWW.FRANCISDESALESHIGHRIVER.COM

VOLUME 14/3/2025

6th Sunday of Lent



April 13, 2025



Sunday Gospel

Gospel: (Luke 19:28-44) As Jesus nears Jerusalem, he once again predicts his coming death. When he explains to his disciples that they are going to Jerusalem where he will suffer, die, and rise again, they can't comprehend how the Messiah and Savior can possibly go down in defeat. The disciples' lack of spiritual understanding stands in contrast to what follows. Passing through Jericho, Jesus is met by a blind beggar who asks for mercy from the "Son of David" (18:35-43). When Jesus heals the man, he immediately follows Jesus, and both he and the crowd praise God (18:43). Jesus then encounters Zacchaeus, a wealthy chief tax collector who climbs a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus (19:1–10). Jesus graces the despised "sinner" with his presence at a meal, and Zacchaeus repents, as evidenced by his willingness to let go of his money. Jesus announces, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (19:9–10). While the disciples struggle to follow Jesus on his terms, a blind man truly sees who Jesus is and a rich man gets into the kingdom, both sure signs that the Savior is at work.

AW SHUCKS!

A little boy was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from church with his mother. His father returned from church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked, "Why do you have that palm branch, dad?" "You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved Palm Branches to honor him, so we got Palm Branches today. "the little boy replied, "Aw Shucks! The one Sunday I miss, is the Sunday that Jesus shows up!"





Easter Decorating

Our amazing Decorating Team is preparing to decorate for Easter, and are kindly asking for donations of **Easter Lilies**, or **Easter Moms**, or a **monetary donation** so they can purchase some. If you would like to participate, and are doing a monetary donation, please bring your donation to the church office by **April 14** or if you are purchasing Lilies or Moms, please bring them to the church by **April 17. If you have any questions, please call Nancy in the church office at 403-652-2203**

SORRY WE'RE

Office Hours for Easter

The Church Office will be closed for the Easter Holiday, **Fri. April. 18–Mon. Apr.21**.

Regular office hours will resume **Tuesday, April 22,at 9:00 am.**





Daytime Adoration Cancelled

There will be **no Adoration** during the day on Holy Thursday, **April 17, 2025**, as we will be preparing for the Holy Thursday Mass. This mass is a **8:00 pm**. There will be Adoration after the mass until midnight. All are welcome!



<u>A Prayer Before the</u> <u>Canadian Election</u>

Gracious and loving God, We stand before You today as a nation at a crossroads, ready to choose our leaders for the journey ahead. We seek Your wisdom, peace, and guidance as Canada approaches this crucial election.

Through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron of Canada, protector of families, and model of humble service, we ask for Your blessing upon our land. Guide us with the strength, faithfulness, and devotion he provided to the Holy Family. With Mary, our Mother, Queen of Heaven, we seek Your grace to keep us in her care. Wrap this nation in her mantle of love, leading us closer to Your Son, our Savior.

Bless the hearts and minds of all who vote, granting them clarity and integrity. Instill in them the courage to pursue justice, the compassion to care for the vulnerable, and the humility to listen to one another. Guide those who step forward as leaders. May they be servants of the common good, rooted in truth, and dedicated to the flourishing of all—across cities, towns, forests, and coastlines of this vast land. Protect them from pride and division, inspiring them to create a future that embodies Your love, righteousness, and the Christian values upon which this country stands.

Lord, You understand the challenges we face—economic uncertainties and the urgent call for unity in our families and country. Pour out Your Spirit upon this nation, that we may rise above fear and selfishness to embrace hope, responsibility, and the strength of the Christian values integral to our identity. St. Joseph, guardian of this country, and with the Blessed Virgin Mary, we ask for your prayers as we strive to honor God's will in our choices. Let this election become a moment of renewal, where every voice is heard, each ballot cast in faith, and every outcome entrusted to Your hands. May Canada emerge stronger, kinder, and more just—a beacon of peace in a troubled world. We entrust this time to You, trusting in Your unfailing care.

Amen.

LENT 2025

MONDAY, APRIL 14 7:00 p.m. Chrism Mass (St. Mary's Cathedral)

MASSES AT: ST.FRANCIS DE SALES

Monday 14 April Tuesday 15 April Wednesday 16 April 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Individual Confessions

 Monday
 14 April 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

 Tuesday
 15 April 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

 Wednesday
 16 April 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

An Easter Message

Easter is the fulfillment of our Catholic faith. The great three day liturgy of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, his great triumph over sin and death. Let us together wash each other's feet, venerate his holy cross and rejoice alongside our Risen Lord this Easter.

Experience the healing and forgiveness of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Frequently receive his body and blood at Mass. Opening yourself to the opportunities of this Easter season will allow you to participate in the fullness of this most sacred Christian feast.

Enjoy Easter the way you were meant to; with Jesus.

Fr. Marius Sztuk, SDS Deacon Larry Driver

<u>Yarn Donations</u>

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

THE Paschal Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY, April 17 HIGH RIVER

7:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Solemn Adoration until midnight

8:00 - 9:00 Fi 9:00 - 10:00 M 10:00 - 11:00 Fi 11:00 - 12:00 Y

Families Mothers Fathers Youth

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17 VULCAN

5:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18

3:00 p.m. - Celebration of the Lord's Passion 6:30 p.m. — Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, APRL 19

10:00 a.m. — Blessing of the Food 8:00 p.m. — The Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

9:00 a.m. Mass Vulcan 11:00 a.m. Mass High River

Happy Easter



Rosaries for Sale

There are Rosaries for sale in our Gift Shop in the Church Hall. They are made by one of our parishioners, Rhona-Mae Arca.

If you are interested in buying one, please see Nancy in the church office during office hours, or call her at 403-652-2203, or email at francisdesales@shaw.ca

Confession or Communion to the Homebound id you 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 Sunday Offering **Adoration** Did you know we now take Donations Please join us for our electronically! You have the following op-Adoration after the 9:00 tions: Direct Debit, Visa, Master Card. am mass on Thursdays, We also have **E-transfer set up**. from 9:45 am-9:00pm. If you would like to come The email address is for an assigned time, please The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning dontion@francisdesaleshighriver.com contact Nancy in the office to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world. at 403-652-2203 Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is If you are interested in switching over to one the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: he is God or email her at of these payment methods, please call Nancy francisdesales@shaw.ca with us. Seek him without tiring, welcome him without reserve, love him in the church office at403-652-2203 or without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever." Saint John Paul II All are welcome! email her at francisdesales@shaw.ca St. Francis de Sales 2025 Offering Envelopes Just a reminder that the 2025Offering 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, Report for the months of January-April, 2025 403-652-2203 or email francisdesales@ shaw.ca The St. Francis de Sales Ministry has helped a total number of 11 people for the months of January to April, 2025. We paid out a total of Saint Francis de Sales High River, AB \$15,321.51 for bills, rent, or mortgages, as well, we gave a total of \$1125.00 in fuel cards, and \$2200.00 in grocery cards. The total assistance we have given this period is **\$18,646.51** Welcome ostal Code Amount S It is rewarding to be able to assist these people w did you hear a e you interested in ng more ab who are genuinely struggling. The help we give is Having a visit from the pasto ing our church? so appreciated. We try to listen and give help as

<u>St. Francis de Sales Special Envelope Days</u>

New Year's Day SFDS Helping Hands Together in Action Needs of the Church in the Ho Easter Good Shepherd Sunday SFDS Helping Hands The Pope's Pastoral Works Together in Action SFDS Helping Hands SFDS Helping Hands Together in Action SFDS Helping Hands World Mission Sunday	January 01, 2025 February 09, 2025 April 06, 2025 April 18, 2025 April 20, 2025 May 11, 2025 May 11, 2025 May 25, 2025 June 01, 2025 June 08, 2025 August 10, 2025 September 07, 2025 September 14, 2025 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

Learning more about our ministry? Having a visit from the pastor? Joining our church? Amount 5

How did you hear about us?

Welcome

ning us

"For it is in giving that we receive." St. Francis of Assisi



much as we can as quickly as possible.

A huge **Thank You** to all those who have made a donation to this rewarding ministry.

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.







<u>Palm Sunday</u>

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week in the Christian calendar, commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event described in all four Gospels of the New Testament (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19). It occurs the Sunday before Easter, and in 2025, it will fall on April 13, given that Easter Sunday is April 20.

Historical Background

The origins of Palm Sunday trace back to the life of Jesus, around 30-33 CE, when he entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey." Crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and laying them on the ground, shouting "Hosanna," which means "save us" in Hebrew. This act symbolized victory, peace, and the recognition of Jesus as the Messiah. However, this triumphant moment was bittersweet, as it preceded his betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion later that week.

The celebration of Palm Sunday as a formal liturgical event developed in the early Christian Church. By the 4th century, pilgrims in Jerusalem reenacted Jesus' entry during Holy Week, a practice documented by the Spanish nun Egeria in her travelogue around 381-384 CE. The tradition spread from Jerusalem to other Christian communities, becoming a widespread observance by the Middle Ages. In the Catholic Church, it evolved into a day of both joy and solemnity, reflecting the dual nature of Christ's entry as a king destined for sacrifice.

Catholic Observance and Meaning

For Catholics, Palm Sunday—officially called "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord"—holds deep spiritual significance. The day begins with a blessing of palm branches (or other local greenery, like olive or willow branches, depending on the region). These blessed palms are distributed to the faithful, who often process into the church, recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The Mass includes two Gospel readings: one recounting the triumphal entry and a longer "Passion Narrative" detailing Jesus' suffering and death, emphasizing the shift from celebration to sacrifice.

The palms symbolize several things:

Victory and Triumph: They echo the ancient use of palms as symbols of victory in Jewish and Roman cultures, signifying Jesus' spiritual kingship.

Peace: Jesus' choice of a donkey over a warhorse highlights his mission of peace rather than earthly conquest.

Martyrdom and Sacrifice: The joy of Palm Sunday is tempered by the awareness of Christ's impending Passion, linking the palms to his ultimate victory over sin and death through the cross.

Catholics often keep blessed palms in their homes, sometimes braided into crosses, as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and a sacramental symbol of grace. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday the following year are often made by burning these palms, connecting the start of Lent to its culmination in Holy Week.

In essence, Palm Sunday invites Catholics to reflect on Jesus as a humble king who willingly embraced suffering for humanity's salvation. It's a day of paradox—celebration intertwined with sorrow—setting the stage for the mysteries of Good Friday and the joy of Easter.







The Sacred Paschal Triduum

The term "Holy Triduum" (often spelled with a capital "H") refers to a sacred three-day period in the Christian liturgical calendar, specifically the three days that encompass the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the culmination of Lent and the most significant time in the Christian year for many denominations, particularly Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Lutherans. The word "Triduum" comes from Latin, meaning "three days" (tri = three, dies = days).

Historical Background

The Holy Triduum has its roots in early Christian practices that commemorated the events of Jesus' final days as described in the New Testament. By the 4th century, with the legalization of Christianity under Emperor Constantine and the development of formalized liturgies, these observances became more structured. The Triduum emerged as a distinct celebration, tying together three key moments:

1. Maundy Thursday - commemorating the Last Supper and Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

2. Good Friday - marking the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.

Holy Saturday - a day of waiting and preparation for the Resurrection, culminating in the Easter Vigil.

Historically, these events were not always celebrated as a unified "Triduum." Early Christians focused on Easter (Pascha) as the central feast, with Good Friday and Holy Saturday gradually gaining prominence. By the Middle Ages, the Roman Rite formalized the Triduum as a three-day liturgical unit, a practice that was further refined during the Council of Trent (16th century) and later in the 20th century with reforms like those of Pope Pius XII in 1955, which restored the Easter Vigil to its nighttime prominence.

Meaning of the Holy Triduum

The Holy Triduum is considered a single, continuous celebration rather than three separate days. It begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and concludes with Easter Sunday evening (though technically, the Triduum proper ends with the Easter Vigil on Saturday night). Each day has its own distinct focus:

Maundy Thursday

Meaning: Named from the Latin "mandatum" (commandment), it recalls Jesus' new commandment to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). The washing of feet symbolizes humility and service, while the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper is central to Christian worship.

Ritual: The Mass ends with the stripping of the altar, symbolizing Jesus' abandonment, and the Eucharist is moved to an "altar of repose" for adoration.

Good Friday

Meaning: A somber day focused on the suffering and sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross, seen as the atonement for humanity's sins. It's a day of penance, fasting, and reflection.

Ritual: No Mass is celebrated (unique in the year). Instead, services include the reading of the Passion, veneration of the cross, and distribution of pre-consecrated Communion.

Holy Saturday (and the Easter Vigil)

Meaning: A day of silence and anticipation, representing Jesus in the tomb. The Easter Vigil, held after nightfall, celebrates the Resurrection, marking the transition from death to life and the triumph of light over darkness.

Ritual: The Vigil includes the lighting of the Paschal candle, the Exsultet (Easter Proclamation), baptisms, and the first Easter Mass. It's a joyous shift from mourning to celebration.

Theological Significance

The Triduum encapsulates the Paschal Mystery—the core of Christian belief: Christ's suffering, death, burial, and resurrection. It's a time for believers to enter into these mysteries through liturgy, prayer, and fasting, reflecting on salvation and renewal. The three days are not merely historical remembrances but a living participation in the events that define Christian faith.

In 2025, with the current date being April 13, the Holy Triduum will occur later this month, as Easter Sunday is calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring (April 20 in 2025), placing the Triduum from April 17 (Maundy Thursday) to April 19 (Easter Vigil).



April 1– 30, 2025

April 1	7:00 pm	James & Helen Leible †
April 2	6 :00 pm	Bereavement Mass
April 3	9:15 am	Stuart Curzon †
April 4	9:15 am	John & Kay Hoffart †
April 5	9:00 am	Lillian Schmidt †
	5:00 pm	Grazyn Sak†
April 6	9:00 am–(Vulcan)	Our parish
	11:00 am	Michael Ryan †
April 7	9:00 am	Deidre & Steve Abma & Family
April 8	7:00 pm	George Curzon
April 9	4:00 pm–(HR Hospital)	Sr. Loretta Rice CSJ
	6:00 pm	SFDS CWL Sisters
April 10	9:15 am	Marge & Mike Heap †
April 11	9:15 am	Frank Charette †
April 12	9:00 am	Colin Budd †
	5:00 pm	Theresa Fallows †
April 13	9:00 am–(Vulcan)	George & Antonina Sztuk †
	11:00 am	Our Parish
April 14	9:00 am	Alison Richards †
April 15	7:00 pm	Peggy Klein †
April 16	3:15 pm–(Seasons HR)	Sr. Teresa Rice CSJ
	6:00 pm	Josephine Owens †
April 17	9:15 am	*****
April 18	9:15 am	****
April 19	9:00 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
	5:00 pm	Our Parish †
April 20	9:00 am–(Vulcan)	Margaret Ryan †
	11:00 am	Nonito & Pina Pascual †
April 21	9:00 am	Mitchell Curzon
April 22	7:00 pm	Norman Fallows
April 23	3:30 pm–(The Manor)	Corin Benjamin
	6:00 pm	Ann Marie Stokes †
April 24	9:15 am	Darlene Gillis†
April 25	9:15 am	Frank Charette †
April 26	9:00 am	John Hughes
r -	5:00 pm	Lloyd Richardson †
April 27	9:00 am–(Vulcan)	Our Parish
1 '	11:00 am	Doug Mowat †
April 28	9:00 am	Fr. Mariusz Sztuk
April 29	7:00 pm	Ken MacKenzie †
April 30	4:00 pm–(HR Hospital)	Bill Ward †
	6:00 pm	Sam Abma

