



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER • VULCAN, AB

6 APRIL 2025



Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone

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Sacramental Prep : Nancy Barton
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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

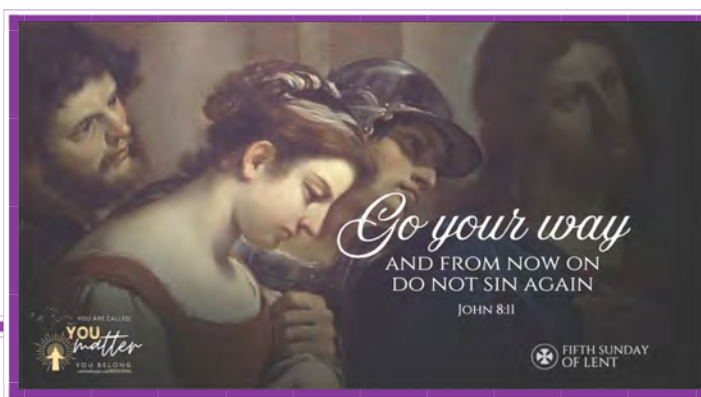
Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



5th Sunday of Lent

April 6,
2025



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 43:16-21) The comfort of Isaiah 40 is followed by repeated encouraging exhortations by God to "Fear not!" Isaiah 41:10 is typical and epitomizes much of the message in this unit: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." The theme of God's powerful and empowering Presence is a major theme in the Prophets, and indeed, throughout the entire Bible.

Second Reading: (Philippians 3:8-14) Certain false teachers were seeking to promote their message, that Christians must keep the Jewish law in order to truly belong to God. But those who truly belong to God are those who worship by the Spirit of God, glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh (3:3).

Gospel: (John 8:1-11) The Jewish leaders bring to Jesus a woman caught in the act of adultery and remind him that the Mosaic law calls for death by stoning for such an offense. They are trying to trap Jesus. After some reflection, Jesus responds, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her" (8:7). Her accusers walk away one by one, leaving only Jesus and the woman. Jesus does not condemn her but sets her free with the warning to leave her life of sin (8:11).

End of the world inquiry

A mother was heading up the stairs with a basket containing the last load of folded clothes. She was also herding her three little ones in front of her for bedtime. Her eldest child, Peggy, who was in kindergarten, picked that moment to begin one of those questions that seem to intrigue all children at some time. "Mommy," she asked, "If it were the end of the world, and everyone was getting ready to die..." The mother stopped, shifted the basket on her hip, and said an ultra-quick prayer for wisdom to answer this question. "Yes?" she prodded her daughter. The little girl finished her theological inquiry: "If the end of the world came, would you have to take your library books back?"



A Prayer Before the Canadian Election

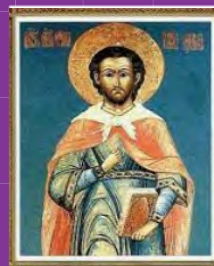
Gracious and loving God, We stand before You today as a nation at a crossroads, ready to choose our leaders for the journey ahead. We seek Your wisdom, peace, and guidance as Canada approaches this crucial election.

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.



**God will give us all blessings which
were promised us through Christ.**

- St. Justin Martyr



Lenten Penitential Service

Please join us for Mass on **April 9, 2024@ 6:00 pm** followed by our **Lenten Penitential**

Service. There will be a few priests available to hear your confession. All are welcome!

Please Note: Confession is also 1 hour before masses



Stations of the Cross /Soup and Buns

Please join us for Stations of the Cross will held **every Friday** during Lent, **Feb. 7– Apr. 11, 2025** at 6:30 pm followed by soup and buns.

All Are Welcome!

Date	Ministry
April 11, 2025	NDC/HSA



St. Francis de Sales CWL Easter Basket Sales

Once again, the CWL is having our Easter Basket Ticket Sale fundraiser.
We have 4 beautiful baskets, 2 adults and 2 children's.

Ticket Sales commence on the following dates:
Sat., March 22, 2025 to Sunday, April 6, 2025
after all Masses in the Church Hall. Draw will be made on Palm Sunday, **April 12, 2025.**

Cost of tickets:

\$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 You can purchase tickets at the church after Masses or by E-Transfer.

E-transfer works as follows:

- You must purchase a minimum of \$10.00 worth of tickets.
- You can send your e-transfer to "sfscwl25@gmail.com".

Please indicate in the message area of the transfer your phone # and your ticket distribution
(i.e. 3 adults or 1 adult and 2 children)

All Proceeds will be donated to a High River local charity within our community.

Thank you so much for your support for these very worthwhile causes.

Blessings,

The CWL Committee:

Barb Wiszt, Geraldine Gervais, Susan Horn, Bae Taylor



CWL General Meeting

The CWL General meeting will be held this coming Wednesday,
April 7th, at 6:30 pm
in the church hall.

Hope to see many in attendance.



High River Pro Life

The High River Pro Life meeting will be on **April 7, 2025, at 7:00 pm**
at the **Medicine Tree Manor**,
901A Macleod Trail SW, High River,

All are welcome!



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



Holy Spirit Academy

HSA Room Dedication

In celebration of our school's 30th anniversary, we are looking to name our classrooms in honor of the Saints. With a donation to Holy Spirit Academy, you can choose the Saint's name for one of our classrooms and offices. You can also donate in memory of a loved one.

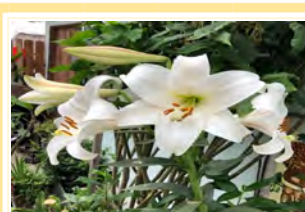
Our goal is to use the money fundraised for future faith events in our building, celebrating the gift of Catholic education in our community.

Please call Holy Spirit Academy at 403-652-2889
If you are interested in participating in this



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



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 11** or if you are purchasing Lilies or Moms, please bring them to the church by **April 14**

If you have any questions, please call Nancy in the church office at 403-652-2203

YOU ARE called
YOU MATTER
YOU BELONG

Financial Stewardship

A MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP

**THURSDAY
APR 10, 2025
7 PM - 9 PM**

Catholic Pastoral Centre
120 17th Ave SW, Calgary

REGISTER ONLINE/
PHONE - BY
FEB 17
403-218-5521

COST TO REGISTER:
\$20/ COUPLE

The Diocese of Calgary invites married and engaged couples to attend our Marriage Enrichment Workshop.

SPEAKERS
Guillermo & Sara Garcia



Lenten Penitential Service

If you are not able to make the Penitential Service at St. Francis De Sales, here are some other options for you to join in.

Okotoks and South Calgary

St. James Parish (Okotoks)—April 3, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

St. Albert the Great (SE Calgary)—April 3, 2025 7:00 pm—8:30 pm

St. Anthony's Parish (SW Calgary)—April 8, 2025 7:30pm—8:30 pm

St. Bonaventure Parish (SE Calgary) April 8, 2025 7:00—9:00 pm

2025
Annual Outdoor
WAY OF THE CROSS
IN DIAMOND VALLEY



*Inter-faith commemoration
of Jesus' final steps to the Cross*

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18th – 10.30 AM

One km easy walk pausing at 14 stations for reflection and prayer.
Starts/ends at St. Michael's Church – 402 Government Road
Seniors & families welcome. Dogs welcome on leash.

SFDS GAMES NIGHT



TRY A GAME, TEACH A GAME!

Bring your fave boardgames, cardgames, and snacks for a fun time of gaming and fellowship.

Children under 13 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

6:00 PM

APRIL 25, 2025

MAY 23, 2025

JUNE 27, 2025

SFDS HALL

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

LENT 2025

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

MASSES AT: ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

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

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	Families
9:00 - 10:00	Mothers
10:00 - 11:00	Fathers
11:00 - 12:00	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, APRIL 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



The Chrism Mass: A Sacred Celebration of Unity and Renewal

The Chrism Mass is a profound and lesser-known liturgical event in the Catholic Church, rich with symbolism and spiritual significance. Celebrated annually, typically during Holy Week or shortly before, this Mass serves as a moment of unity for a diocese, bringing together priests, deacons, and the faithful under the leadership of their bishop. As of April 06, 2025, with Easter Sunday approaching on April 20th, many dioceses worldwide are preparing for this sacred rite, making it an ideal time to explore its meaning and traditions.

Origins and Purpose

The Chrism Mass has its roots in early Christian practices, evolving into a distinct celebration by the Middle Ages. Its primary purpose is the blessing of holy oils—known as chrism, the oil of catechumens, and the oil of the sick—which are used in sacraments throughout the year. These oils are consecrated by the bishop, who presides over the Mass, symbolizing his role as the chief shepherd of the diocese and the unity of the local Church.

The term "chrism" comes from the Greek **chrisma**, meaning "anointing," reflecting its connection to Christ, the "Anointed One." This Mass underscores the sacramental life of the Church, linking the bishop's ministry to the priests who serve parishes and the faithful who receive these sacred rites.

The Ritual of the Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass is typically held in the cathedral of a diocese, though the date can vary—often on Holy Thursday morning or earlier in Holy Week to accommodate schedules. In our Diocese of Calgary The Chrism Mass will be held on 14 of April at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary. The liturgy is marked by several key moments:

1. **Blessing of the Oils:** The bishop consecrates the chrism (a mixture of olive oil and balsam) and blesses the other oils. Chrism is used in baptisms, confirmations, and ordinations, symbolizing the seal of the Holy Spirit. The oil of catechumens strengthens those preparing for baptism, while the oil of the sick brings healing and comfort to the ill.
2. **Renewal of Priestly Promises:** A distinctive feature of the Chrism Mass is the moment when priests renew their commitment to their vocation. Standing before the bishop, they reaffirm their dedication to serve God and the Church, a poignant reminder of their shared mission.
3. **Unity of the Diocese:** The presence of clergy from across the diocese, alongside lay representatives, highlights the communal nature of the event. After the Mass, the blessed oils are distributed to parishes, physically connecting the cathedral to every corner of the diocese.

Symbolism and Significance

The Chrism Mass is steeped in symbolism. The fragrance of balsam in the chrism evokes the "sweet aroma of Christ," a call for the faithful to spread the Gospel. The oils themselves represent healing, strength, and consecration, mirroring the Church's mission to nurture and sanctify its people. For priests, the renewal of vows is both a personal recommitment and a public witness, reinforcing their bond with the bishop and one another.

For the laity, attending the Chrism Mass offers a rare glimpse into the broader life of the Church. It's a chance to see the diocese as a living, breathing entity united in faith and purpose. In an era of individualism, this celebration stands as a counterpoint, emphasizing community and shared responsibility.

The Chrism Mass in 2025

As Holy Week 2025 approaches, dioceses worldwide are gearing up for this event. In some regions, it may be livestreamed to reach those unable to attend in person, reflecting the Church's adaptation to modern technology. The oils blessed this year will anoint the newly baptized at Easter, confirm young adults in the months ahead, and comfort the sick, carrying the prayers of the Chrism Mass into everyday life.

A Call to Reflection

The Chrism Mass, though not as widely recognized as Christmas or Easter, holds a quiet beauty. It invites Catholics—and all who are curious—to reflect on the sacred rhythms of faith, the power of anointing, and the strength found in unity. As the oils are prepared and promises renewed, the Church looks both backward to its ancient roots and forward to its ongoing mission.

So, as April unfolds and Easter draws near, we are learning more about our local Chrism Mass. It's a hidden gem of the liturgical year, offering a moment of grace and connection in the heart of the Church.

MASS INTENTIONS

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



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