



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

11 MAY 2025



"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb."

Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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Music Coordinator: Donna Abramson
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LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm – High River

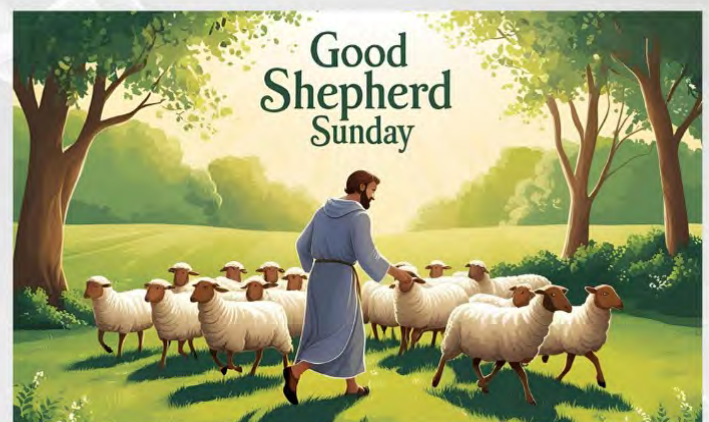
Sunday 9:00 am – Vulcan

Sunday 11:00 am – High River

CONFESSIONS

Monday – Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Fourth Sunday Of Easter

May 11,
2025



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Acts 13:14,-43, 52) When the Jews see the large crowds that have gathered to hear Paul, they begin to oppose the missionary team out of jealousy (13:44-45). Having fulfilled their obligation to speak the word of God first to the Jews, who apparently do not consider themselves worthy of receiving eternal life, Paul and Barnabas turn to the gentiles (13:46-47). While many of the gentiles believe, the Jews incite opposition from the leading citizens of the city (13:48-50). As a result, Paul and Barnabas leave Pisidian Antioch for Iconium, full of joy and the Holy Spirit (13:51-52).

Second Reading: (Revelation 7:9, 14b-17) We move forward in time to the eternal state where victorious believers ("the great multitude") cry out praises to God and the Lamb (7:9-10). The heavenly creatures join them with a sevenfold praise (7:11-12). One of the elders identifies the great multitude as those who have come through the "great tribulation" by purifying themselves and trusting in the death of Christ (7:13-14). They serve God continually and experience God's presence ("his tent") and provision and comfort, along with the Lamb's shepherding care (7:15-17). As the seventh seal is broken and the scroll is opened, heaven becomes silent for a brief time, sobered by the next phase of God's plan (8:1). Mount Sinai and recur throughout the book as signs of God's presence.

Gospel: (John 10:27-30)

Jesus's "sheep" follow him and receive eternal life. No one can remove them from Jesus's hand or the Father's hand, since Jesus and the Father are one (10:27-30).

"Blessed Are the Forgetful"

Father Andrew decided to visit the parish school and ask the children some questions about the Bible. He entered the Grade 2 classroom and said,

"Good morning, children! Who can tell me what we must do before we can be forgiven of our sins?" A little girl raised her hand eagerly and said, "We have to sin first!"

Trying not to laugh, Father Andrew continued, "Okay... and who knows what we call the place where we confess our sins?" Another child shouted, "The penalty box!"

Slightly amused and mildly concerned, Father tried again: "Alright, let's make it simple. What do we call the person who forgives us in confession?" A boy in the back proudly stood up and said, "My mom!"

At that point, Father Andrew quietly decided it was time for a refresher class on the sacraments... and maybe one for the parents, too.



Obituary

It is with great sadness we announce that one of our long time parishioners, Lionel Norris-Jones, peacefully went to his eternal reward on May 4, 2025. One of our Pastoral Care Team members, Joyce journeyed with Monica and Lionel for many years in support of their faith. It was Lionel's wish to have a private graveside service.



Obituary

It is with great sadness we announce that one of our longtime St. Andrew's Parish parishioners, Allan Fath, passed away peacefully on April 13 2025.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.



Fr. Marius Away on Retreat

Fr. Marius will be away on his annual priestly retreat from **Monday, May 12** through **Friday, May 16**.

During this time, **there will be no weekday Masses** from Monday to Friday.

We kindly ask you to **keep him in your prayers** as he takes this time for spiritual renewal and reflection.

Please note that **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will still take place on Thursday, May 14**, as scheduled.

Thank you for your understanding and continued prayerful support.

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 donation@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

Saint Francis de Sales
High River, AB

Welcome

Thank You
for joining us today.

Name _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____ Amount \$ _____
Are you interested in: _____ How did you hear about us? _____
☐ Learning more about our ministry?
☐ Having a visit from the pastor?
☐ Joining our church?

St. Andrew's Parish Mystery Envelope

Can the owner of **Envelope #29**, from 2024 please call Nancy in the church office at 403-652-2203.

The # was not recorded so it is unknown who it belongs to. It was used **Easter weekend** of this year, but the date on the envelope is **May 5, 2024**

Rosaries for 1st Communion for Sale

There are some 1st Communion Rosaries for sale, as well as regular Rosaries 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 secreary@francisdesaleshighriver.com



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

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



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.





Mother – A Light in Times of Darkness

In today's world, which increasingly rejects Christian values, the role of the mother becomes not only a challenge but also a mission. The reality we live in is flooded with moral relativism, ideologies that blur natural roles, and a growing crisis of the family. In this context, being a mother is not just a biological matter – it is a vocation, a spiritual battle, and a testimony of faith.

Mother as Defender of Life and Faith

The mother stands on the front line in the battle for the souls of her children. In a world that glorifies self-fulfillment and comfort, she chooses sacrifice, selfless love, and daily dedication. She defends life from conception to natural death. She teaches prayer, forgiveness, and responsibility. She – often without recognition – becomes the home's "catechist," "psychologist," and, above all, an icon of God's love.

Mother – The Teacher

Today, a mother must not only raise her children but also form their conscience. In a culture that blurs the line between good and evil, truth and falsehood, she must courageously say, "Yes – yes, no – no." Her life, rooted in the Gospel, becomes countercultural – a quiet but powerful protest against moral manipulation that destroys human identity.

Motherhood as a Vocation, Not a Project

Modern narratives often portray motherhood as a limitation, an obstacle to professional development, or even a form of enslavement. Meanwhile, the Church reminds us that motherhood – both physical and spiritual – is one of the most beautiful vocations. A mother does not give up on herself but offers herself out of love. She is not weak – she is strong in grace.

Mary – A Model for Every Mother

In the face of attacks on the family and motherhood, the mother has a powerful example – Mary, the Mother of God. Her life, full of humility, silence, and unwavering faith, shows that a woman's strength does not lie in dominance but in service. Mary did not seek recognition but faithfully fulfilled God's will – even when it meant suffering at the foot of the Cross.

Hope for the World

In times of chaos, confusion, and broken families, it is the Mother who can be a point of reference. Her faithfulness, prayer, and presence are like a lighthouse on a stormy sea. Through her quiet daily choices, she builds the future of the Church and the world.

On this Mother's Day, we thank all Mothers – for their steadfastness, love, prayer, and silent fight for the souls of their children. You are the heroines of our time.





Good Shepherd Sunday – A Call to Pray for Vocations

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday, is a special time of prayer for priestly and religious vocations. It is a day when the Church throughout the world turns its eyes to Christ—the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep, leads them, and lays down His life for them.

In today's world, filled with noise, haste, and confusion, we need shepherds—people who are courageous, in love with God, and ready to serve others. Priests and consecrated persons are not “superhumans”—they are just like us. Their vocation, however, is born from a deep relationship with God and the desire to bring His love where hope, peace, or meaning in life are lacking.

Prayer – the Power that Brings Forth Vocations

Vocations don't come out of nowhere. They are born in the hearts of young people, but they mature in an atmosphere of prayer. Jesus Himself said: “*Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*” (Matthew 9:38). This is not just an encouragement—it is a direct command: we are to pray and cry out to God for priests and religious.

Many of us remember a time when every few years someone from our parish entered the seminary or religious life. Today, things look different. But does that mean God has stopped calling? No. Perhaps we have stopped praying for vocations with the same fervor as before.

That is why, on this Good Shepherd Sunday, we ask—let us not forget to pray. Let us pray especially for vocations from our own parishes, from our own families. Perhaps God is already preparing the hearts of some of our children or grandchildren to follow Him. We need both communal and personal prayer—rosaries, adoration, sacrifices, and acts of charity. This is the spiritual foundation of vocations.

We Need Shepherds

Without priests, there is no Eucharist, no sacraments, no proclamation of God's Word with power. Without religious sisters, many quiet but powerful witnesses of love—service to the sick, the lonely, and the poor—would be missing. The Church needs shepherds, who like Christ, will lead the people of God.

So let us pray: *Lord, give your Church holy priests and consecrated persons! Call them from our parishes, from our families—people who are courageous and willing to follow Your voice.*

Let prayer become our strength. For it is prayer that changes hearts and opens heaven.



St. Francis de Sales CWL Flower Fundraiser

Hello Everyone,

We are, once again, inviting you to be a part of our Fundraising plant order this spring! As always, there is a great selection of hanging baskets and potted annuals, with several new items this year. **Prices are the same as last year!**

Here are the instructions for our group. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me. Supplies are limited, plants are in high demand, and this platform is open to other groups as well, so **for best selection, order early!**

The password will be activated and the website will be open for orders starting on **Monday, April 21st** and will remain open until **May 16th**. Do not submit any orders after this date - our group code will be closed at that point and you will not be able to link to our group.

Please read through all of the instructions below. The most important step is the GROUP CODE.

Please ensure that you understand the instructions before proceeding. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you!

Instructions:

Click or copy the link to find your way to the Greenhouse Effects website: www.greenhouseeffects.ca

Click "Shop" and find the Fundraising Program.
Click "Shop Now" and enter **Guest Password:GE125**
This will give you access to the online store for ordering.
There are 32 Hanging Basket mixes and 80 individually potted plants for you to choose from.

Once you have made your selections, continue to your Cart. This is where you will enter your **GROUP CODE: Francis25** in the promo code box.

This is very important. The purpose of the code is to link your purchase to our group. The code does not provide any further discount. However, please ensure you complete this step! Thank you!

From here you can proceed to Payment. You will go through the usual steps for an online purchase, and be asked for your **GROUP CODE** once more. Once you submit your payment you are all ready to go!

Your order will be processed and delivered to St. Francis Parish, High River, **for pickup on May 20, 2024.**

Happy shopping!



The High River Pro Life meeting will be on **Thursday, May 15, 2024**, at **7:00 pm** at the Medicine Tree Manor. Doors open at 6:45 pm

All are welcome!



The Catholic Women's League of Canada: 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

Thursday, May 15, 2025

"Protection of life at the beginning and end of life is precious. Life needs our prayers."

National CWL President Shari Guinta

Please join the CWL in prayer.

Copies of hourly prayers and reflections will be placed at the back of the church.

Your change
changes lives



Your generosity supports real families facing real challenges! By filling a bottle, you're joining a community of generous people, coming together to bring hope to young families in our community. The bottles added together provide support for today and impact for generations.

Participating is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1

Put your cash, coins, or a cheque in the bottle, or donate online.

2

Bring your bottle back on Father's Day (June 15th).

3

Sign up for our newsletter and keep us in your prayers.

Other Ways to Give:

- **Donate online** <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mainsprings/>
- **E-transfer** to accounting@mainsprings.com
- **Send a cheque** payable to Mainsprings
- **Scan our QR code**

*Donations \$25 or more will be issued a donation receipt.

Donate Today!



Mainsprings Pregnancy and Family Support Association is planning to raise an estimated amount of \$500,000 this year on fundraising campaigns. It will cost our organization an estimated \$30,000 to raise this. The money raised will go to board-approved programs. For further information, please contact Dennis Kiebler at 403-269-3110. Our address is 205, 925 - 7 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1A6.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 1– 31, 2025

May 1	9:15 am	Alex Richards
May 2	9:15 am	Pope Francis †
May 3	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Larry & Therese Driver Our Parish
May 4	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Tom Rosell † Peter Thome †
May 5	9:00 am	Meyers/Walters Families †
May 6	7:00 pm	Alijandrino & Milagras Floresca †
May 7	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass
May 8	9:15 am	Al & Agnes Downs †
May 9	9:15 am	McKinley & Corazon Baylado †
May 10	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Michael Floresca † George & Antonina Sztuk †
May 11	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Doug Mowat †
May 12	9:00 am	Tarcesio & Fe Crisilda Pongasi †
May 13	7:00 pm	Bessie Amores †
May 14	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	SFDS Pastoral Care Team SFDS CWL Sisters
May 15	9:15 am	Tony & Adeline Mayer †
May 16	9:15 am	Grant & Vivianne Fraser
May 17	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Stuart Curzon † Brijdo Mejia & Delfina †
May 18	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Nancy Barton
May 19	9:00 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
May 20	7:00 pm	Baxter Family
May 21	3:15 pm—(Seasons) 6:00 pm	Fr. Philip Le SFDS Helping Hands Teams
May 22	9:15 am	Wendell & Noelle Hoffart
May 23	9:15 am	Lloyd Richardson †
May 24	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Stuart Curzon † Darlene Gillis †
May 25	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	George & Antonina Sztuk † Our Parish
May 26	9:00 am	Felix & Carmen Amores †
May 27	7:00 pm	Stuart Curzon †
May 28	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Barbara Charette Stuart Curzon †
May 29	9:15 am	Stuart Curzon †
May 30	9:15 am	Alejandrino & Milagras Floresca †
May 31	9:00 am 5:00 pm	John Lupyckukz † Pam Curzon



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