



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



12 JANUARY 2025

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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Secretary: Nancy Barton
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Phone: 403-652-2203
Sacramental Prep : Nancy Barton
Email: francisdesales@shaw.ca

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

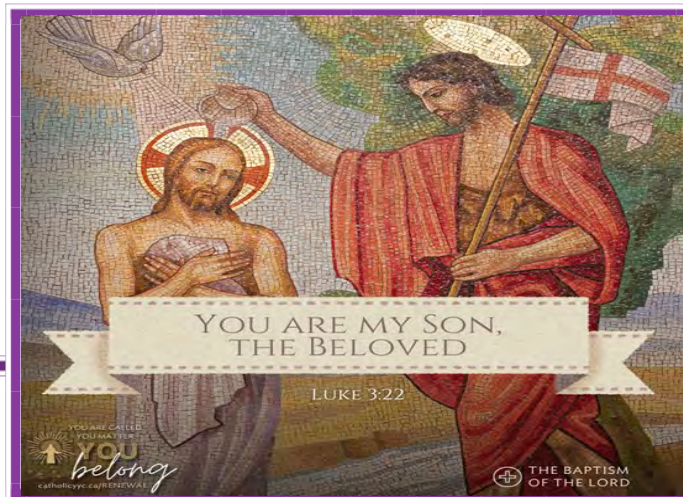
Monday – Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



The Baptism of the Lord

January
12, 2025



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7) Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations.

Second Reading: (Acts 10:2-34-38) Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

Gospel: (Luke 3:15-16,21-22) The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see [Isaiah 11:1-2](#); [Daniel 9:25](#)). That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see [Luke 1:32-33](#)).

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

Children's Prayer

3-year-old Reese: Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.

A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

One particular four-year-old prayed: "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."



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



Mass Cancelled



Fr. Mariusz will be going on holidays **Jan. 13-21, 2025**. Fr. Larry Bagnall will be graciously filling in for him, and will be doing masses **Jan. 14-19**.

Please Note: there will be no mass on **Jan. 13, 20 & 21**. Please add Fr. Mariusz to your prayers for a safe and enjoyable holiday.

A New Years Prayer

*Thank You Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should.
As each new day I tread, give me gentle wisdom,
that I might help a friend.*

*Give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend.
Help me fill it with good things.
Each day filled with joy and happiness it brings.*

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

Our goal is God, the source of all good. Place your trust in God and in no one else.

- St. Jerome Emiliani





**Pictured here are the new
CWL Executive for 2025-2027.**

Mary Ann Dearing, Joanne Van Donzel
(Co-chairing Presidents),
Linda Lieble (Vice President),

Susan Horn (Past President), Gloria Lundberg (Secretary),
Bae Taylor (Treasurer), Geraldine Gervais (Service),
Gloria Smorang (Faith), missing from photo



***An Evening of
Wine and Cheese Tasting***

Kick those Winter Blues away!

Mark your calendars. The CWL are hosting
an evening of wine and cheese tasting.

When: Friday, January 31st, 2025

Where: St. Francis de Sales Church Hall

Time: 6:30-9:30 pm

Cost: \$40.00 per person

Only **100 tickets** will be available. This event is open to
all parishioners **not just** CWL members. Those interested in
purchasing tickets may contact Susan Horn at 403-601-4584,
or email her at dghlinks@telus.net OR money can be
E-transferred to sfscwl25@gmail.com

Looking forward to an evening of learning about wines
and the regions of the world that they come from.

GREAT LEARNING STARTS HERE!

**HOLY SPIRIT ACADEMY
REGISTER FOR
FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN**



Programming Options include:
**FULL DAY/FIVE DAYS
PER WEEK**
OR
**TWO FULL DAYS
PER WEEK**

- Optional nature-inspired outdoor programming
- Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age or older by Dec. 31, 2025

REGISTRATION ALSO
OPEN FOR ALL OTHER GRADES



OPEN HOUSE !!
Thursday, Jan. 30
6:00 to 8:00 pm
You do not have to be
registered to attend

ACCEPTING CATHOLIC
AND NON-CATHOLIC
STUDENTS

TO REGISTER VISIT
visit <https://holyspirit.redeemer.ab.ca>

403-652-2889

Visit us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/holyspirit.ctr



**Knights of
Columbus**

The K of C 9521 January
meeting will be on **Monday
January 13, 2025, 7:00 pm**
in the St. Francis de Sales
Church hall.



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, January 24, 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. Latecomers 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.**



Did Jesus have to be baptized?

The question of whether Jesus had to be baptized is a complex theological issue that has been explored by various Church teachings and scholars throughout history. While Jesus did not require baptism for the forgiveness of sins, His decision to undergo baptism carries significant meaning.

The Nature of Jesus' Baptism

1. Baptism of Repentance: The baptism administered by John the Baptist was a baptism of repentance, intended for the forgiveness of sins. However, Jesus, being sinless, had no need for repentance or forgiveness. This raises the question of why He chose to be baptized at all. The Catechism of the Catholic Church clarifies that Jesus' baptism was not for His own purification but rather an act of solidarity with humanity. By participating in this ritual, He identified with those who were seeking repentance and conversion.

2. Fulfillment of Righteousness: In the Gospel of Matthew, when John the Baptist expresses his reluctance to baptize Jesus, the Lord responds, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). This statement indicates that Jesus' baptism was part of His mission to fully embrace God's will. It was an act of obedience and a demonstration of His commitment to the divine plan of salvation.

Theological Significance

1. Inauguration of His Ministry: Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of His public ministry. It is a moment of divine revelation, where the Holy Spirit descends upon Him, and the voice of the Father proclaims Him as His beloved Son (Matthew 3:17). This event signifies the anointing of Jesus for His mission and the establishment of His identity as the Messiah.

2. Prefiguration of His Death: Jesus' baptism also foreshadows His passion and death. The act of being immersed in water symbolizes His future immersion in suffering and sacrifice for the sins of humanity. Pope John Paul II noted that Jesus' baptism contains a redemptive intention, as He is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Thus, His baptism is intrinsically linked to His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross.

In conclusion, while Jesus did not need to be baptized in the sense of requiring forgiveness of sins, His baptism was a deliberate and meaningful act. It served to fulfill all righteousness, inaugurate His public ministry, and prefigure His redemptive mission. By choosing to be baptized, Jesus demonstrated His solidarity with humanity and His commitment to the divine will, setting an example for all believers.



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**

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?



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



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

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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High River, AB

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Postal Code _____ Amount \$ _____

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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.





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