



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



5 JANUARY 2025

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office

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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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



The Epiphany of the Lord

January
05, 2025



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 60: 1-6) Herod, in today's Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see [2 Samuel 2:5](#)), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see [Micah 5:1-3](#)).

Second Reading: (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6) One greater than Solomon is here (see [Luke 11:31](#)). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “coheirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today's Epistle teaches.

Gospel: (Matthew 2:1-12) The Magi's pilgrimage in today's Gospel marks the fulfillment of God's promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler's staff over the house of Jacob (see [Numbers 24:17](#)). [https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections for more info.](https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections-for-more-info)

Don't Ignore Jesus

A concerned little girl approached her father one day and said, "Daddy, I just don't believe it's right to ignore Jesus."

The father, more than a little confused, answered, "I agree with you. We shouldn't ignore Jesus. But what made you think of that?"

"Well, it's that Christmas song we sing at church. You know, the one that says, 'O come let us ignore Him!'"



A Heartfelt Thank You

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who dedicated so much time, energy, and talent to make this Christmas and New Year celebration such a beautiful and memorable occasion.

A special thank you goes to our Music Ministry, whose uplifting and inspiring melodies filled our hearts with joy and reverence. Your dedication and passion brought an extra layer of grace to our worship, and we are truly blessed by your commitment.

To the Decoration Committee, thank you for transforming our space into a true reflection of the beauty and holiness of this season. Your attention to detail and creativity created an atmosphere that helped everyone feel the warmth and peace of Christ's presence.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Deacon Larry, ensuring that our services were meaningful and spiritually enriching. Your hard work and devotion allowed us to fully celebrate the sacredness of this time, guiding us through powerful moments of prayer and reflection.

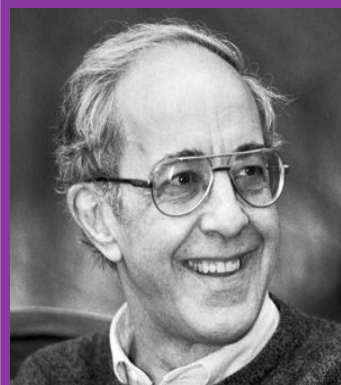
Thank you all for your contributions, your spirit of service, and for making this holiday season so special for our entire parish community.

Wishing you all continued blessings in the New Year!

I would also like to personally thank each and every one of you for your heartfelt prayers, thoughtful cards, and generous gifts. Your kindness and support mean so much to me, and I am truly grateful for the love and care you've shown during this beautiful Christmas season.

May God bless you abundantly in the year ahead, and I look forward to sharing many more moments of joy and fellowship with all of you.

Fr. Marius Sztuk



Hope prevents us from clinging to what we have and frees us to move away from the safe place and enter unknown and fearful territory.

— Henri J. M. Nouwen



Christmas

2024





The Epiphany of the Lord

The Epiphany of the Lord is deeply rooted in the mystery of God revealing Himself to humanity through Jesus Christ. It commemorates the visit of the Magi, symbolizing the manifestation of Jesus as the Savior not only for Israel but for all nations. Here's how the religious aspect deepens its meaning, especially in our contemporary culture:

The Epiphany celebrates Jesus as the light of the world and the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Messiah. The visit of the Magi signifies that salvation is not limited to one people but is for all humanity.

In today's world, where people seek meaning and direction, this celebration is a reminder that Jesus is the ultimate answer to humanity's deepest desires and questions.

The journey of the Magi represents the universal human quest for God. Their willingness to leave their homeland, follow a star, and worship Jesus models how faith requires trust, effort, and humility.

Catholics are reminded during Epiphany to prioritize worship in their lives, recognizing Christ's presence in the Eucharist, prayer, and acts of love.

The Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh have profound theological significance:

- *Gold: Symbolizes Christ's kingship.*
- *Frankincense: Represents His divinity and the worship He deserves.*
- *Myrrh: Prefigures His suffering and death, showing that His mission includes the redemption of humanity through the cross.*

These gifts teach Catholics to offer their lives—time, talents, and treasures—in service to Christ and His Church.

The star that led the Magi to Jesus reflects the guiding light of Christ, who dispels the darkness of sin and despair. In a world often marked by confusion and moral relativism, the Epiphany reminds Catholics that Jesus is the true light that illuminates the path to God.

The Epiphany emphasizes that Jesus' mission is universal, calling Catholics to share the Gospel with others. Just as the Magi were drawn to Christ, believers are called to draw others to Him by living lives of faith, love, and hope.

In a secularized culture, this feast challenges Catholics to witness boldly to their faith, becoming "stars" that guide others to Christ.

The Magi came from different nations and represent the diversity of God's people. The Church, as the Body of Christ, mirrors this universality, welcoming all cultures and peoples into communion with God.

Epiphany reminds Catholics of the importance of fostering unity and breaking down barriers in a fragmented world.

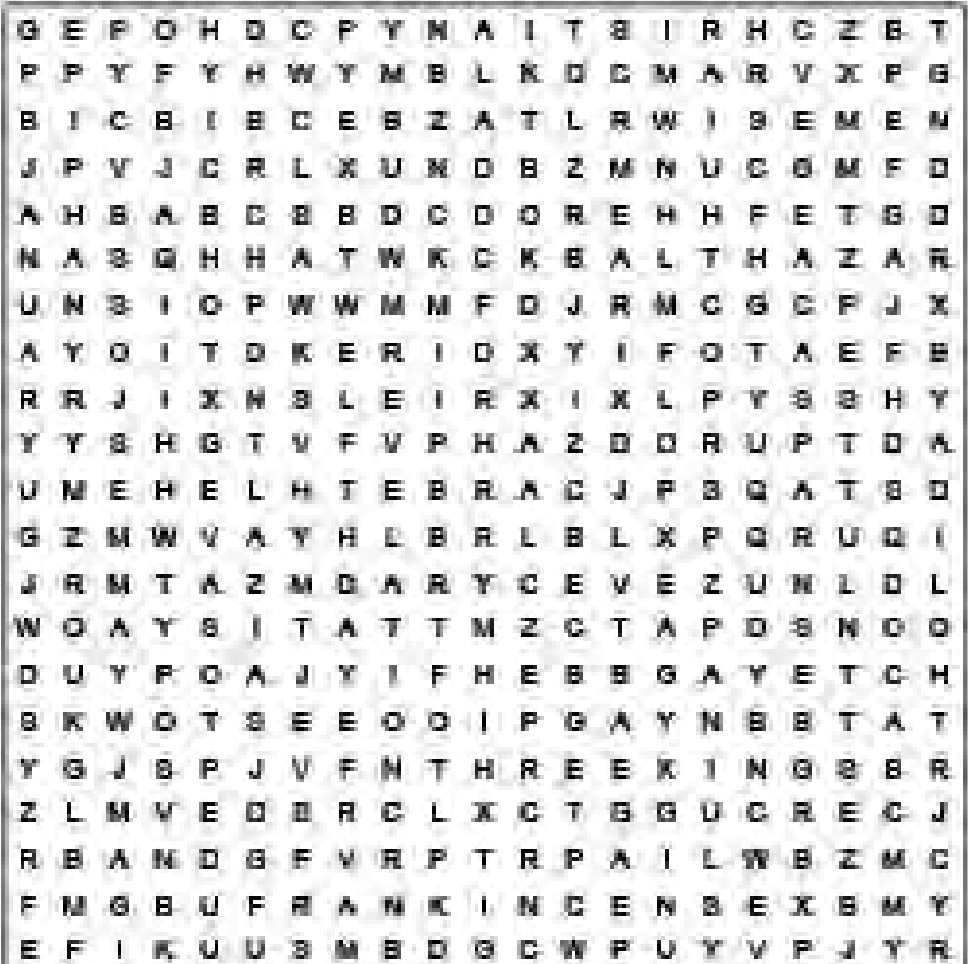
For Catholics, the Epiphany is a profound reminder of God's love revealed in Jesus, calling believers to seek, worship, and proclaim Him. It's not just a historical event but a living mystery, inviting everyone—both believers and seekers—to recognize and respond to Christ's presence in the world today.

Name: _____

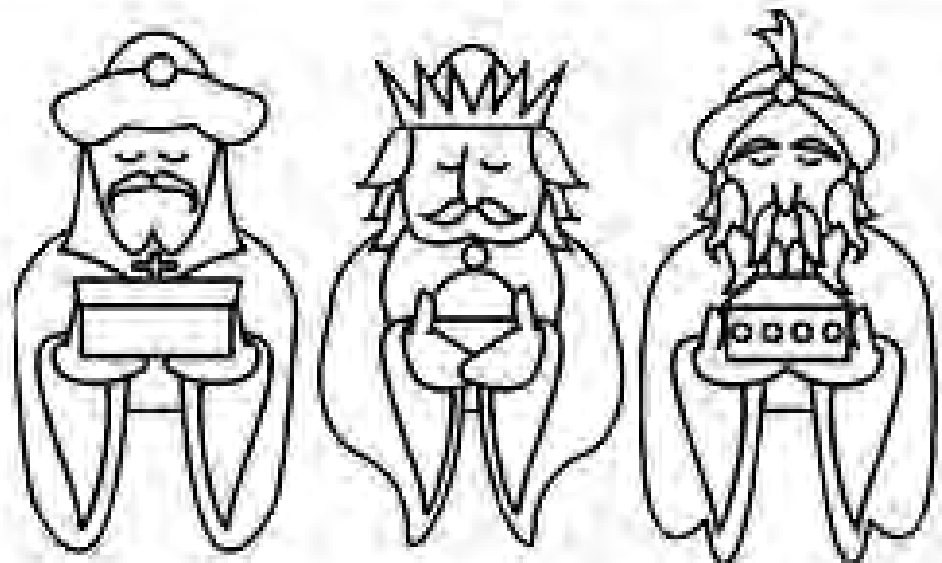
Date: _____

Epiphany Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words in
the grid. Look for
them in all directions
including backwards
and diagonally.



- BABY
- BALTHAZAR
- BAPTISM
- BETHLEHEM
- CASPAR
- CHRISTIAN
- EPIPHANY
- FEAST
- FIRST MIRACLE
- FRANKINCENSE
- GOLD
- HEROD
- HOLIDAY
- HOPE
- JANUARY
- JESUS
- MAGI
- MELCHIOR
- MYRRH
- REVELATION
- SIXTH
- STAR
- SUNDAY
- THREE KINGS
- TWELFTH DAY
- WISE MEN





Richard Alexander Strauss Obituary

Richard Alexander Strauss, fondly known as “Dick,” passed away peacefully on December 27, 2024, in High River, Alberta, at the age of 82. Born on June 26, 1942, in Champion, Alberta, Dick lived a life filled with hard work, family, friendship, and laughter.

Dick survived by his devoted wife of 60 years, Mary Jane; their three sons, Neil (Pam), Derek (Lisa), and Dean; nine beloved grandchildren; Zach (Alex), Scott, Joshua, Maxwell, Tighe, Tiana, Ava, Maddox, and Fallon, and one great-grandson, Felix. He is also survived by his sister, Eilleen. He was predeceased by his parents, Felix and Loretta Strauss, his brothers Ralph, Jim, and Jerry, and his sister Mary.

Dick’s life was centered on his family, especially his grandchildren, whose sporting events he attended with pride and joy. He was a man of many passions, including gardening, where he grew towering sunflowers and made it his mission one year to break the record for the largest pumpkin, delighting his grandchildren by gifting them pumpkins for Halloween.

A skilled welder, ironworker, and farmer, Dick was a man who could fix anything that could be welded. His career took him many places, but he often spoke fondly of his time in Malaysia. Known for his love of cows and his knack for cribbage, Dick brought a sense of humor and quick wit to every room he entered.

Dick’s circle of friends was as vast as his talents, and he was always the first to lend a hand to anyone in need. Whether it was fixing a piece of equipment, sharing advice, or simply being there for a neighbor or friend, Dick’s kindness and generosity left a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Dick loved music, particularly the songs of Waylon Jennings, Merle Haggard, and Kris Kristofferson, and he had a talent for uncovering rare gems no one else had heard. His favorite pastime was getting Google to play those hidden treasures for family gatherings.

An active member of his community, Dick gave back in many ways, volunteering for the Nanton Handi-Van Society and, in his younger years, serving with the Lions Club and Nanton Minor Hockey.

Dick and Mary Jane married on August 29, 1964, in Calgary, Alberta, marking the beginning of a lifetime of love and partnership.

A celebration of Dick’s life will be held on January 4, 2025, at 1:00pm at the Catholic church - St. Francis de Sales in High River.

Dick will be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor, selflessness, and unwavering love for his family and friends. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who loved and admired him.

In lieu of flowers donations to the Nanton Handi-Van Society in Dick’s name would be gratefully appreciated.

Arrangements in care of Snodgrass Funeral Home – High River (403) 652-2222



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HOLY SPIRIT ACADEMY REGISTER FOR FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN



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- Optional nature-inspired outdoor programming
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REGISTRATION ALSO
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6:00 to 8:00 pm
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AND NON-CATHOLIC
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**



Holy Spirit
Academy

2023-2024

annual education results report

An Overview of Our Performance

ALBERTA ASSURANCE ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS

Alberta Education Assurance is a set of 12 performance measures calculated by Alberta Education for schools and school boards across the province. Schools and school boards are evaluated based on achievement, improvement, and overall performance.



Gr. 6 Provincial Achievement Test (Acceptable)

- PAF acceptable is the percentage of students who achieve the acceptable standard on Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests

Gr. 6 Provincial Achievement Test (Excellence)

- PAF excellence is the percentage of students who achieve the standard of excellence on Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests

[Click here for our full Annual Education Results Report](#)

Faith Survey Results

- 99%** Percentage of students, parents, and teachers who indicate that they are satisfied with the relationship that exists between the school and the local Catholic parish
- 98%** Percentage of students, parents and teachers who are satisfied with how they have grown as a Christian as a result of their involvement in Catholic Education
- 100%** Percentage of students, parents and teachers who are satisfied with what is being taught in religious classes
- 99%** Percentage of students, parents and teachers who indicate they are satisfied with the religious celebrations that are held at the school
- 100%** How satisfied are you with the efforts of your child's school to do all things as Jesus would want them done?

Insights

- Education quality at Holy Spirit Academy is paramount, driven by a culture of collaboration and commitment to student learning.
- Access to supports and services and providing a safe and caring learning environment are key components to student success at HSA.
- HSA teachers are focused on implementing research based best practices in assessment to enhance our provincial achievement test results.

WWW.REDEEMER.AB.CA

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!



Ecumenical Advent Carol Service

Thank you to all who came to the Advent Carol Service last Sunday evening. Our choir did an exceptional job, as well the combined choir from several churches sounded amazing. Thank you to our Filipino band for accompanying our choir

It's great to know we have a wonderful Community in High River that comes together to celebrate the Advent Season.

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

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

THE HOLY MASS with BISHOP WILLIAM MCGRATTAN

Celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year with Bishop William T. McGrattan, rooted in the Church's tradition of spiritual renewal, forgiveness, and hope, as we journey together as "Pilgrims of Hope."

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT NOON

St. Mary's Cathedral
219 18 Ave SW
Calgary

YOU ARE called YOU MATTER YOU BELONG

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of Calgary

October

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.



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Phone: (403) 652-2880 * Fax: (403) 652-2887

online booking: <http://vcmedicalclinic.ca/>



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