



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



25 DECEMBER 2023

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office Hours

St. Francis de Sales Parish
206 - 9th Avenue West,
High River, Alberta T1V 1A4

Office Phone # 403-652-2203
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Contact Us

Parish Priest : Fr. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS
Email: dzambel@me.com
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Deacon: Larry R. Driver
Email: deaconldriver@gmail.com

Secretary: Nancy Barton
Email: francisdesales@shaw.ca
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

CHRISTMAS 2023



Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 24,
2023



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12, 14a-16) He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father."

Second Reading: (Romans 16:25-27) It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see [Ephesians 1:9](#); [3:3-9](#)).

Gospel: (Luke 1:26-38) What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken.

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

Photo By: Erica Viana

Don't Forget Joseph

As you arrange the Nativity scene on your coffee table or on your fireplace mantle or underneath your Christmas tree – wherever you place it – put the Wise Men and the shepherds around the Christ child, for there is the center of sanity in a large, crazy world. But don't forget Joseph. Put him even nearer to the Christ child. He's earned his place there. Because Joseph – the forgotten one, who just sort of hangs around the stable like a doorman or something and doesn't have any lines in the Christmas pageant – has much to teach us about the Christmas story, and about unwavering faith.



Rorate Mass

In our parish, there are Rorate Masses every Saturday morning during Advent at 7:00 am.

- *December 23, 2023 at 7:00 am.*



We cordially invite you to join us in prayer.
Please note that there will be no mass at 9:00 am on Saturday mornings during Advent.

Christmas & New Year's Office Hours

The parish office will be closed for the Christmas & New Year season, **Dec. 22/23 to Jan. 1/24**

Regular office hours will resume **Jan. 2/24 at 9:00am**



Rosary Leaders Needed

We are in need of more people to lead the Rosary before the Saturday 5:00 pm mass and Sunday 11:00 am Mass.



If this interests you, please talk to Valerie Schey, or contact Nancy in the office at 403-652-2203 or by email, at francisdesales@shaw.ca

Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year



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@mc.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



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**



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!**

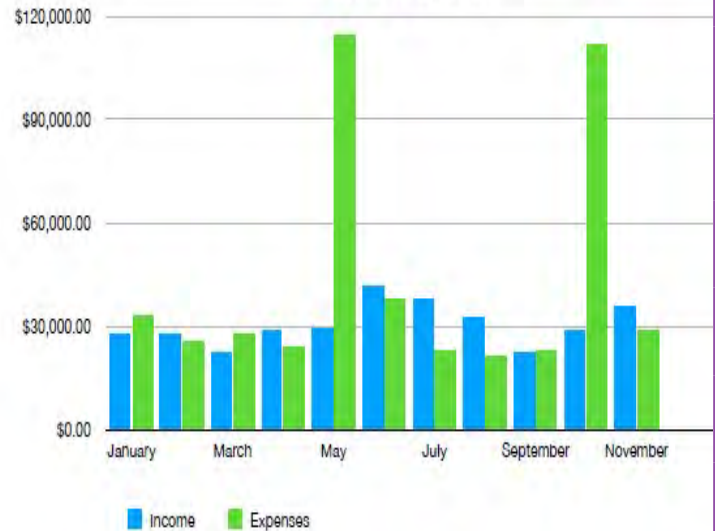
SFDS Financial Report January – November 2023

Monthly Financial Report

Summary by Category

| Category | Income | Expenses | Difference |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| January | \$27,931.28 | \$33,080.49 | (\$5,149.21) |
| February | \$27,785.96 | \$26,643.40 | \$2,142.56 |
| March | \$22,363.90 | \$27,738.07 | (\$5,374.17) |
| April | \$29,208.75 | \$24,034.67 | \$5,174.08 |
| May | \$29,681.00 | \$114,553.36 | (\$84,872.36) |
| June | \$41,907.62 | \$37,658.43 | \$4,249.19 |
| July | \$38,156.05 | \$22,963.11 | \$15,192.94 |
| August | \$32,085.74 | \$21,218.91 | \$10,866.83 |
| September | \$22,473.10 | \$22,692.55 | (\$219.45) |
| October | \$29,110.60 | 111,727.93 | (\$82,617.33) |
| November | \$35,395.13 | \$29,171.91 | \$6,223.22 |
| December | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total | \$336,099.12 | 470482.83 | -134383.71 |

Income vs. Expenses



“For it is
in
giving
that
we
receive.”

~ St. Francis of Assisi



Hospital Stay

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.



SFDS HELPING HANDS

Report for the months of March–September 2023

The St. Francis de Sales Ministry has helped a total number of **13** people for the months of March to Sept.2023. We paid out a total of **\$8546.12** for bills, rent, or mortgages, as well we gave a total of **\$1250.00** in fuel cards, and **\$700.00** in grocery cards. We were also gifted **\$1500.00** in grocery cards from St. Vincent de Paul in Okotoks, and have given out \$1200.00 of that so far. The total assistance we have given so far is **\$11, 696.12**

It is rewarding to be able to assist these people who are genuinely struggling. The help we give is so appreciated. We try to listen and give help as much as we can as quickly as possible.



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

GREAT LEARNING STARTS HERE!

REGISTER FOR FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN

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

Accepting Catholic and non-Catholic students

Nature-inspired outdoor learning a focus

Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age or older by December 31, 2024

REGISTRATION ALSO OPEN FOR ALL OTHER GRADES

Visit your school's website and click on the REGISTER tab



OPEN HOUSE !!
 Thursday, Feb. 1
 6:00 to 8:00 pm
 You do not have to be registered to attend

TO REGISTER VISIT

visit <http://www.holyspiritacademy.ca/>
 403-652-2889

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



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



Holy Spirit Academy 2022-2023 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 school and school boards across the province. Schools and school boards are evaluated based on achievement, improvement, and overall performance.



- Student Learning Engagement:** The degree and frequency with which students are engaged in learning activities that are meaningful and relevant to their lives.
- Citizenship:** The extent to which students understand and practice their rights and responsibilities as citizens of their school, community, and society.
- Education Quality:** The extent to which students are achieving at or above the provincial average in reading, mathematics, and science.
- Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, and Safe Learning:** The extent to which students feel safe, supported, and valued in their school environment.
- Access to Support and Services:** The extent to which students have access to the support and services they need to succeed in school.
- Parental Involvement:** The extent to which parents and guardians are involved in their child's education and well-being.



Insights

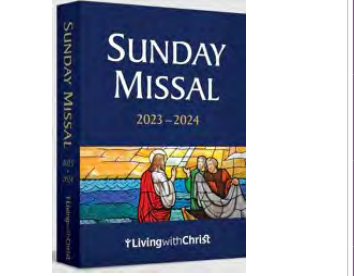
- HSA showcases exceptional education quality, exceeding provincial averages in both the acceptable and excellence standards on achievement tests.
- Access to supports and services and providing a safe and caring learning environment are key components to student success at HSA.
- HSA continues to provide increased opportunities for parental involvement and new strategies for stakeholder communication.

Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools
[WWW.REDEEMER.AB.CA](http://www.redeemer.ab.ca)

CWL Christmas Food Drive

Thank you to everyone in the Parish who donated so generously to the food bank. The food was delivered on Thursday, Dec 13 and the Salvation Army issued a special "thank you" for the large volume of food collected plus the cash donations. Your contribution is very much appreciated and will help so many people.

Susan Horn, President CWL



2024 Missals

The 2024 **Sunday Missals** are now available in the church hall. A donation is greatly appreciated



St. Francis de Sales 2024 Offering Envelopes
 Just a reminder that the 2024 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

CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE

DEC 23 5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER

DEC 24 9:00 AM - VULCAN



11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER

5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER

9:00 PM - VULCAN

MIDNIGHT - HIGH RIVER

DEC 25

11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER

OFFICE CLOSED



FROM: 22 - DECEMBER
TO: 1 - JANUARY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Blessings fr. Marius



NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

CELEBRATE THE END OF YEAR AND THE NEW YEAR WITH US

SATURDAY - 30 5:00PM - HIGH RIVER

SUNDAY - 31 9:00 AM - VULCAN
11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER
5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER
11:00 PM ADORATION - HIGH RIVER
MIDNIGHT MASS - HIGH RIVER

MONDAY - 1 9:00 - VULCAN
11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER

HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2024



Dec. 26 Tues. 7:00 PM **St. Stephen - Feast**
Dec. 27 Wed. 6:00 PM **St. John, Apotle, Evangelist - Feast**
Dec. 28 Thurs. 9:15 AM **The Holy Innocents - Feast**
Adoration unit 9:00 PM
Dec. 29 Fri. 9:15 AM **Octave**
Dec. 30 Sat. 9:00 AM **Octave**

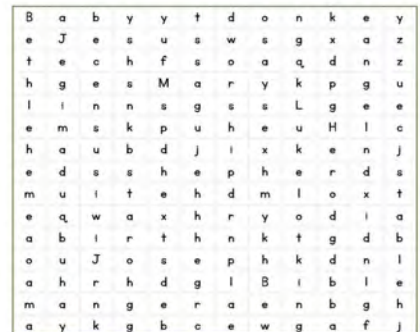
These are the Mass times between Christmas and New Years.



Mass
Schedule

Christmas Word Search

Christmas Word Search



| | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Baby | census | evangelist | donkey |
| King | Mary | herod | angel |
| Bethlehem | inn | birth | shepherds |
| Joseph | stable | Luke | star |
| Jesus | worship | Bible | hay |

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Mama's Learning Corner



Merry Christmas

In this joyful Christmas time, I would like to extend my best wishes to you, dear parishioners, your families and all guests spending Christmas in this community. May the Good God, who comes to us in the newborn, grant us health, peace and joy, and surround us with the abundance of his graces. In this solemn season, I ask especially for graces for those who are sick, lonely, whose hearts are filled with fear and uncertainty about tomorrow. May they experience God's goodness most intensely.

May the joyful celebration heal wounds, end disputes and quarrels, and start a new and beautiful time in our family relationships. By creating a community of friendship and love in the family, in the neighborhood, in the parish, we can experience every day the wisdom of the words of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Whenever you allow God to love others through you, it is always Christmas". I summarize these wishes in Christ's blessing, which you accept as a celebration in the company of family, acquaintances, friends and guests.

Fr. Marius



MASS INTENTIONS

December 1– 31,
2023

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| December 1 | 9:15 am | Adeline Mayer † |
| December 2 | 9:00 am 5:00 pm | Larry & Therese Driver Terry Fallows † |
| December 3 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am | Darlene Humphreys † Our Parish |
| December 4 | 9:00 am | Jensen Family |
| December 5 | 7:00 pm | Marge Heap † |
| December 6 | 6:00 pm | Bereavement Mass |
| December 7 | 9:15 am | Frank Charette † |
| December 8 | 9:15 am | Terry Pilon † |
| December 9 | 7:00 am 5:00 pm | Danny & Mary Rehak † Graeson Rosell |
| December 10 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am | Our Parish Barbara Walls † |
| December 11 | 9:00 am | Tim McLean |
| December 12 | 7:00 pm | Sharon MacLean |
| December 13 | 4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm | Mr. & Mrs. Nesselbeck & Family † SFDS CWL Sisters |
| December 14 | 9:15 am | Hoffart Family † |
| December 15 | 9:15 am | Emily Brookwell † |
| December 16 | 7:00 am 5:00 pm | Eva Richard † Anne-Marie Stokes † |
| December 17 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am | St. Andrew's CWL Sisters George & Antoni |
| December 18 | 9:00 am | Juliana Toro † |
| December 19 | 7:00 pm | George & Antonina Sztuk † |
| December 20 | 3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm | Denis Pilon † Janet Bennett |
| December 21 | 9:15 am | Frank Charette † |
| December 22 | 9:15 am | Roger & Arlene MacKenzie |
| December 23 | 7:00 am 5:00 pm | Al Julian † Ann Wood † |
| December 24 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm Midnight | Our Parish Fr. Mariusz George & Antonina Sztuk† Theresa Fallows † |
| December 25 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am | George & Antonina Sztuk † Betty & Toni † |
| December 26 | 7:00 pm | Emily Malmberg |
| December 27 | 3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm | Rick Bernard Paul & Lilliane Busque |
| December 28 | 9:15 am | Tim McLean |
| December 29 | 9:15 am | Larry & Ilene Dupuis |
| December 30 | 9:00 am 5:00 pm | Bessie Amores † Edna Lim † |
| December 31 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm 11:00 pm Midnight | Nick Csermai Our Parish George & Antonina Sztuk † Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Theresa Fallows † |



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