



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



3 DECEMBER 2023

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office Hours

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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Contact Us

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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

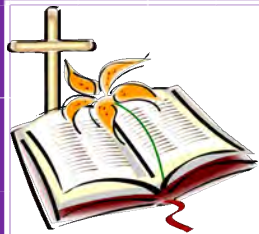
Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

I SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Sunday of Advent

December 3,
2023



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 64:1, 3-8) The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading.

Second Reading: (1 Corinthians 1:3-9) God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

Gospel: (Mark 13:31-37) So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

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

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

There is an amusing Hasidic story about a rabbi who crossed a village square every morning on his way to the temple to pray. One morning, a large Russian Cossack soldier, who happened to be in a vile mood, accosted him, saying, "Hey, rabbi, where are you going?" The rabbi simply said, "I don't know."

This infuriated the soldier. "What do you mean, you don't know? Every morning for twenty-five years you have crossed the village square and gone to the temple to pray. Don't fool with me. Why are you telling me you don't know?" He grabbed the old rabbi by the coat and dragged him off to jail.

Just as the Cossack was about to push him into the cell, the rabbi turned to him, and softly said, "You see, I didn't know." Someone asks, when will Christ return, when will history come to a climax and a new world order, an order straight from God, be introduced? The answer is, we don't know. The early church thought it would be in their lifetime. It's been 2,000 years. "Why does the Lord tarry?" many ask. We don't know. We should not be surprised at that. There is much in life that God has not revealed to us. We don't even know what tomorrow might bring.

Where are you going?

Rorate Mass

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

- December 9, 2023 at 7:00 am
- December 16, 2023 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.

Advent Penitential Service

Please join us for our Advent Penitential Service, **Wednesday, December 13, 2023**, after the 6:00 pm Mass.

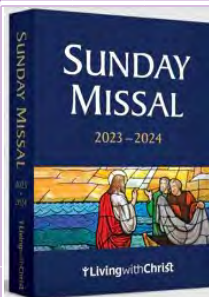
All are welcome!

Prepare
the Way
of the Lord!



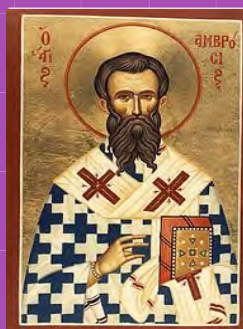
Please join us on **December 17, 2023 at 7:30 pm** at the High River United Church for the annual joint **Advent Carol Service**. This is a joint service provided by some of the churches in High River.

All are welcome!



2024
Missals

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



"If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the one with no shirt".

— St. Ambros

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!**

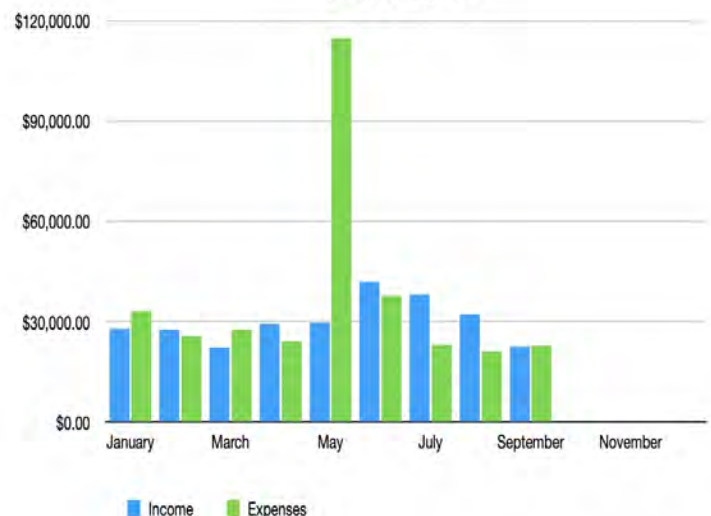
SFDS Financial Report May— September 2023

Monthly Financial Report

Summary by Category

Category	Income	Expenses	Difference
January	\$27,931.28	\$33,080.49	(\$5,149.21)
February	\$27,785.95	\$25,643.40	\$2,142.55
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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
November	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
December	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$271,593.39	\$329,582.99	(\$57,989.60)

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.



Grey Cup Charity Notice

The Knights of Columbus Council 9521 Grey Cup Charity Pool ended last weekend. The event was a complete success with all tickets/squares being purchased. The winning prizes belong to:

Final Score: **Evan Browne**

1st Quarter Score: **Geraldine Gervais**
2nd Quarter Score: **Julaine Hamer**
3rd Quarter Score: **Nora Fowler**
Reverse Final Score: **Jo Monaghan**

Our members wish to thank all the Parishioners for generously supporting this Charity Fundraiser. Proceeds will be distributed to the **Handi-Bus Society of High River** who provide such a tremendous service to the elderly in our community and especially the physically challenged of our Parish.



SFDS Catholic Women's League

2024 CWL Membership Fees are Due

It's that time of year once again where the CWL will be collecting membership fees for the year 2024 beginning on **Saturday, October 28th** and running through to **Sunday, November 26th**. Fees will be collected both before and after Mass.

The membership fee is **\$35.00** which can be paid either by cash, cheque or e-transfer sfscwl25@gmail.com.

CWL Christmas Food Drive



Christmas is coming and I'm sure we are all aware that Food Banks are already currently overwhelmed with families needing help.

The following is a list of items, that was taken from an Advent Calendar for Food Banks.

If you are able, please pick up some of the items (many will be on sale) every time you shop within the next couple of weeks and start a Food Bank Box to be delivered to the church hall beginning November 15th.

- Box of Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Stuffing Mix
- Boxed Potatoes
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Tuna/Salmon
- Dessert Mix
- Applesauce
- Canned Regular or Sweet Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce
- Box of Crackers
- Package of Rice
- Package of Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Tomato Soup
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Canned Corn
- Canned Carrots
- Canned Beans
- Baby Food and Formula
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex Tissue



CWL CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Saturday December 2, 2023
St. Francis de Sales Church Hall

1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Hope to see you there!!!



Please mark your calendars for the **St. Francis de Sales CWL Christmas Bake Sale, Saturday December 2, 2023 from 1:00-4:30 in the church hall.**

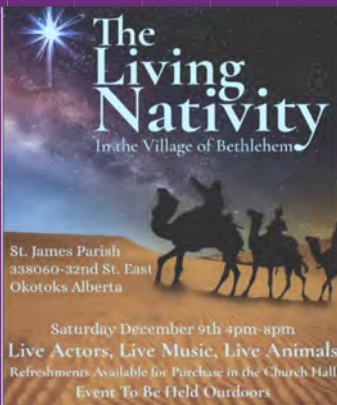
Come and get your baking for the Christmas Season and enjoy a tea or coffee while browsing.

Hope to see you there!!!

St James Parish

As we prepare for Christmas this year, St James Parish, in Okotoks, invites you to come and walk through the Town of Bethlehem and meet the Holy Family in this live replica of the Christmas Nativity. The Living Nativity will take place on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from to 8 pm in the field next to the Church parking lot.

The address is **338040 32nd St East, Okotoks.**



Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted and given to charity. There will be light, warm refreshments available for a small fee in the Church hall. We hope to see you there!

"The Living Nativity is looking for assistance with people to help portray the citizens of Bethlehem, live animals such as sheep and/or a donkey, and 15 small straw/hay bales. Please contact mummers5x@gmail.com or gvanterve@redeemer.ab.ca to help us in any way."

Teen Youth Night!

Teen Youth Group on Saturday, **December 2nd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**, for Grades 7-12, right here at the church after 5:00 o'clock Mass. Pizza, prayer, games, fun!

Wear your Ugly Advent sweater!

Please let us know if you're able to make it so that we can be sure to have enough pizza and other supplies.

Contact Mark Mercier at mmercier@redeemer.ab.ca, or Cathy Dudgeon at cdudgeon@redeemer.ab.ca or contact Nancy at the church office by phone **403-652-2203** or email at francisdesales@shaw.ca



1 John 3:18

LET US LOVE, NOT IN WORD OR SPEECH, BUT IN TRUTH AND ACTION

**OHHH WE'RE
HALF WAY THERE!**



Thanks to all who have donated to the TIA Campaign so far, we are Just over the halfway mark!!!

We have raised \$12,960.95 so far, of our goal of \$24,463.00.

If you would like to make a donation, please put your envelope in the Sunday Offering labeled TIA Campaign, or call Nancy in the church office at 403-652-2203



Have a Merry Christmas!



GMP HOMEMADE TASTE
EST 2005

FROZEN PORK SPRING ROLLS
\$35 - 50 pieces

FROZEN PORK SIOMAI DUMPLINGS
\$35 - 35 pieces



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

Holy Spirit Academy School Council Fundraiser



Holy Spirit Academy School Council is working to enhance and increase the availability of sensory items in classrooms throughout the school to promote regulation as part of our healthy schools' initiative. This includes purchasing a variety of therapy toys, fidget toys, and tactile items providing sensory input for grades K-6, and additional assistive technology, such as tablets with intentionally targeted regulation and educational apps, for grades 3-6.

Please help Holy Spirit Academy achieve this goal by purchasing *GMP Homemade Taste* spring rolls or dumplings at [GMP Homemade Taste Appetizer HSA Fundraiser \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/search?q=GMP+Homemade+Taste+Appetizer+HSA+Fundraiser) or by calling the **HSA Office @ 403-652-2889**. \$10 from each sale will go directly towards supporting Holy Spirit Academy students.

Orders can be placed from November 20th – December 15th and payment must be made via e-transfer as per instructions order form, which includes further details. Thank you to *GMP Homemade Taste* and Holy Spirit Academy School Council for their generosity in this initiative to support our students.

ADVENT

Today marks the first Sunday of Advent. Advent, which means "arrival" in Latin, is a joyful and hopeful time as we await the coming of the Son of God, our Savior.

The Church divides Advent into two parts. The first part runs from the First Sunday of Advent until December 16, while the second part from December 17 to 24.

During the first part of Advent, we reflect and prepare for the Lord's second coming at the end of time. The second part is a time for direct reflection on the preparation for the celebration of Christmas. To help us count down the Sundays of Advent, we use the Advent Wreath, which has four candles.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Hope, on the second Sunday the candles of Hope and Peace on the third Sunday candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy and on the fourth Sunday the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Many families also have Advent candles in their homes and light them during prayers, meals, and family gather



The Advent wreath symbolizes the community of the Church as we await and prepare to receive the Lord. One of the forms of preparation is participation in the RORATE MASSES celebrated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In our parish we will do that every Saturday during Advent at 7:00 am in the morning.

The season of Advent is an opportunity for spiritual awakening. It is a time to reflect on our faith in God, the purpose of our existence, and the path to salvation. We can ask ourselves about our preparation for the encounter with God.

What do we need to change in our lives? What separates us from God and others? Maybe we need to break with the sin of laziness in prayer, skipping Sunday Mass, wasting time, unkindness to people, pride, drunkenness, impurity, anger...

To better prepare for the joyful celebration of Christmas, we often participate in spiritual exercises and receive the Sacrament of Penance (reconciliation). In our parish we will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation on December 13 at 6:30 in the evening. The Advent season is another opportunity to open ourselves to Jesus and to see His traces in our daily life, and to spread Advent joy around us.

"Let us praise Christ and thank Him for His reception in the Eucharist, which is the announcement of the Second Coming in Glory."

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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