



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



17 DECEMBER 2023

Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office Hours

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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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

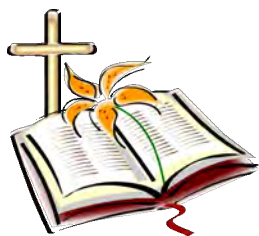
III SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Third Sunday of Advent



December 17,
2023



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11) John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains (see [John 1:32](#)), the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today's First Reading (see [Luke 4:16-21](#)).

Second Reading: (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24) And as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body—that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.

Gospel: (Mark 1:6-8, 19-28) The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't.

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

THE KING OF THE POOR

Long ago, there ruled in Persia a wise and good king. He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. He wanted to know about their hardships. Often he dressed in the clothes of a working man or a beggar, and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their ruler. One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful, kind words to him. Then he left.

Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, "I am your king!" The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favor, but he didn't. Instead he said, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me you have given yourself!" God is willing to make most any accommodation to have fellowship with us. Even becoming human



Rorate Mass

In our parish, there are Rorate Masses every Saturday morning during Advent 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.

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**



Please join us on **December 17, 2023 at 7:00 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!



"Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has and this requires transforming greed into gratitude."

-**St. John Chrysostom**

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!**

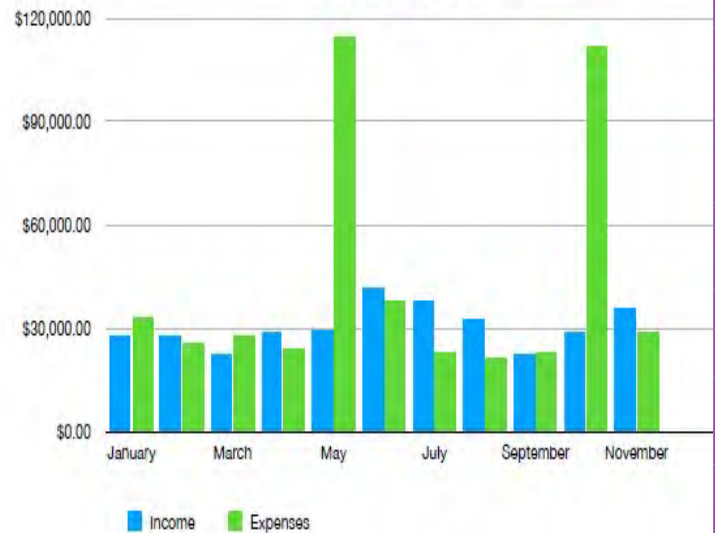
SFDS Financial Report January – November 2023

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.



Poinsettias

The decorating team would like to fill the church with beautiful Poinsettias! If you would like to donate a poinsettia or donate money to purchase them, please bring them to Nancy in the office.

If you have any questions, you can call Nancy at 403-652-2203, or email her at francisdesales@shaw.ca.



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



2023 Together IN ACTION
Annual Diocesan Appeal

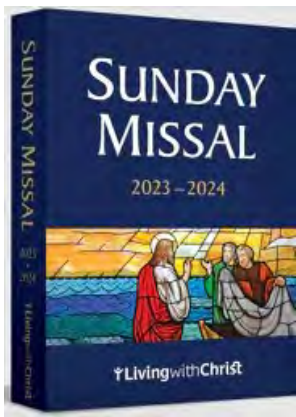
1 John 3:18
LET US LOVE, NOT IN WORD OR SPEECH, BUT IN TRUTH AND ACTION



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

We have raised \$13,020.95 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



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



Advent

c	a	e	i	y	o	l	i	g	h	t	i	f	j	
g	c	h	r	i	s	t	m	a	s	f	v	f	w	e
a	k	b	v	y	m	w	w	a	w	d	r	v	u	s
f	o	h	l	o	v	e	u	c	a	t	o	n	t	u
o	c	s	r	d	j	o	j	k	i	e	j	t	v	s
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m	h	b	r	b	d	c	p	r	f	m	h	f	n	y
y	o	n	e	e	i	b	t	i	o	r	n	h	d	r
e	p	i	t	r	v	s	v	j	o	y	t	p	a	b
w	e	e	k	j	g	u	p	n	m	a	r	y	i	l
c	h	j	p	n	h	p	e	a	c	e	d	n	t	y

Advent
Jesus
Mary
Joseph
Christmas
December
Sunday
week

Four
hope
waiting
peace
preparation,
Joy
love
light



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



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) 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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