



# St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



8 OCTOBER 2023

Roman Catholic Parish  
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



## Office Hours

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

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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

## THANKSGIVING SUNDAY



# 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 9, 2023

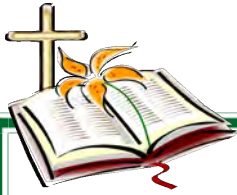


Photo By: Maureen Lecuona

## Sunday Readings

**First Reading:** (Isaiah 5: 1-7) Jesus picks up the story where Isaiah leaves off, even using Isaiah's words to describe the vineyard's wine press, hedge, and watchtower. Israel's religious leaders, the tenants in His parable, have learned nothing from Isaiah or Israel's past. Instead of producing good fruits, they've killed the owner's servants, the prophets sent to gather the harvest of faithful souls.

**Second Reading:** (Philippians 4:6-9) We need to take care that we don't let ourselves be overgrown with the thorns and briars of worldly anxiety. As today's Epistle advises, we need to fill our hearts and minds with noble intentions and virtuous deeds, rejoicing always that the Lord is near.

**Gospel:** (Matthew 21:33-43) In today's Gospel Jesus returns to the Old Testament symbol of the vineyard to teach about Israel, the Church, and the kingdom of God. And the symbolism of today's First Reading and Psalm is readily understood.

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

## GIVING IT ALL

Once upon a time at a church meeting a wealthy member of the church rose to tell the rest of those present about his Christian faith.

"I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute my wealth to the blessings of God in my life." He went on to recall the turning point in his relationship with God. As a young man, he had just earned his first dollar and he went to a church meeting that night. The speaker at that meeting was a missionary who told about his work in the mission field. Before the offering plate was passed around, the preacher told everyone that everything that was collected that night would be given to this missionary to help fund his work on behalf of the church. The wealthy man wanted to give to support mission work, but he knew he couldn't make change from the offering plate. He knew he either had to give all he had or nothing at all. At that moment, he decided to give all that he had to God. Looking back, he said he knew that God had blessed that decision and had made him wealthy.

When he finished, there was silence in the room. As he returned to the pew and sat down, an elderly lady seated behind him leaned forward and said, "I dare you to do it again."

# I DARE YOU!



The office will be closed **Monday, October 9, 2023** for the **Thanksgiving Holiday**. Regular Office hours will resume on **Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023 @ 9:00 am**. Please Note: **There is still a 9:00 am Mass on Monday, Oct. 9, 2023**



## Adoration & RCIA

There will still be **Adoration** on Thursday, **October 26** from 9:30 am—9:00 pm, as well there will also be **RCIA** Thursday evening, **October 26, 2023 @ 7:00 pm**



## SDS Retreat

Fr. Mariusz will be away **October 23-27** for the Salvatorian (SDS) Retreat. There will be **no mass on Oct. 24, 25, 26, and 27**.

There **will be mass on Oct. 23 @ 9:00 am**.



**Please Note:** Fr. Maruisz will take the Mass intentions that have been booked with him and say them at the retreat. **Please put Fr. Mariusz in your prayers for safe travels.**

## 1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist 2023/2024

The registration link is now open online to register your child for **1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion**. Your child must be in Grade 2-6 for this Sacrament. The first class is on **October 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm**



**(please note: deadline for registration is October 8, 2023)**  
Please go to our website to register for these Sacraments  
[www.francisdesaleshighriver.com](http://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com)

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at the church office by phone: 403-652-2203 or by email: [francisdsales@shaw.ca](mailto:francisdsales@shaw.ca)

*"Everyone of us has been called by the Lord. The important thing is to know how to answer his call"*

-St. John XXIII





### CWL Monthly Meeting

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on **Oct 11 starting at 6:30pm**. We encourage all members to attend and any new ladies to the parish to come and meet new ladies and take part in this Catholic organization.



The next K of C meeting is **Monday October 16 at 7:00 pm** at the SFDS Church hall.

**All K of C brothers invited and also those who would like to join!!**

For more information, call Grand Knight Gerry McCallum 403-652-6229



### SFDS Children's Choir

Enjoy singing? The Children's Choir will be starting up again and we would like to invite all kids in **kindergarten to grade 6** to come and sing.

The Children's Choir will be singing on the **first Sunday** of each month (practicing before mass @ 10:00) and there will also be practices on the **Wednesday** before the first Sunday @ 4:30 pm, at the church.

Please contact Annah Baldwin via email if you want to join the choir or have any questions. Email: [ahbanana2@gmail.com](mailto:ahbanana2@gmail.com)

**Thank you!**

**Looking forward to hear from you!**



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### St. Andrew's Parish, Vulcan 1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion,



High River, AB

Est. 1908

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

September 5, 2023

Dear Parents:

My name is Fr. Mariusz Sznuk, SDS and I am delighted to be working with YOU to co-ordinate the preparation for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion, this year. The beginning of the school year also marks the beginning of sacramental preparation. I would like to invite the children to celebrate both sacraments in their Grade Two or Three. The home and parish carry the primary responsibility for this preparation. Enrolment celebration, parent orientation meetings, and sacramental celebrations will originate from the parish. Your involvement and your participation in the parish are crucial to your child's faith development and ultimate commitment to the Catholic faith. The school instruction regarding the meaning of the sacraments is an essential part of the program. It supports and enhances the learning and the experiences the children encounter at home and in the parish.

The readiness of your child to receive this sacrament will be decided by you in consultation with the pastor. Your home preparation can begin now. While you await further communication from the parish we encourage you to bring the following points to your child's awareness.

- The fact that she/he may be celebrating a sacrament.
- The name of the sacraments she/he may be preparing to celebrate.

It is also important that as family you consciously begin your child's preparation for the sacrament by intensifying:

- Your regular participation in Sunday Mass.
- Your daily morning and evening prayer.
- Your daily efforts to imitate the life of Jesus.

We, as a parish, will help you in this preparation with classes.

8	October	2023	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #1
15	October	2023	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #2
22	October	2023	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #3
29	October	2023	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #4
14	April	2024	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #1
21	April	2024	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #2
28	April	2024	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #3
5	May	2024	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Session #4
12	May	2024	4:00-5:00 PM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	First Confession
19	May	2024	8:00 AM	St. Andrew Church - Vulcan	Holy Communion

If you have any questions, please call church office; 403.652.2203 or francisdesales@shaw.ca

403-652-2203  
206 9 Avenue W. High River, AB. T1V 1A4  
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www.francisdesaleshighriver.com



### "I don't want to go to church anymore. I don't believe in God, it's not my religion,"

...she was told by her teenage daughter. It is only up to parents what we will do with our pain in such a situation. We can get stuck in despair and guilt. But we can also follow in the footsteps of St. Monica and draw from this drama a lesson, as beautiful as it is difficult.

In such a situation, it is easy to get stuck in your own suffering, guilt and failure. There is a temptation to give up. Bitterness, self-pity, manifestation of suffering. Reactions can be really different, but almost each of them carries a powerful load of difficult emotions. It happens that parents reach for the heaviest weapon and, wanting to punish a "wandering" family member, decide to cut themselves off from him. However, one can try to look at what happened a little differently and follow the path that St. Monica chose. This pious woman, with boundless love and persistent prayers, led to the conversion of her son. And probably there would be nothing extraordinary about it, if not for the fact that she waited 17 years for it! In this way, the biggest sinner in the area, who in his life indulged mainly in lust and debauchery, was... a saint and one of the most famous theologians in the history of the Church. A child's departure from faith (like any other drama in life) can be treated as an opportunity for conversion. It can be both a beautiful and very difficult lesson in unconditional love, freedom and gratitude. They are parents who, although they have lost their children to the Church, have not ceased to give them love and acceptance. Although they carry an open wound in their hearts, they redirect attention from their own suffering to gratitude and an attempt to build an intimate relationship with them. For some it comes naturally, for others it costs a lot of sacrifices and years of hard work. But all draw strength from the same source: a close relationship with God.

**As a parish, we want to join your prayers, so we invite you to a Holy Mass and special devotion on the last Tuesday of the month, in the intuition of children who have fallen away from the faith and the church.**

# OCTOBER

## Month of the Holy Rosary

Saint John Paul II said "The Rosary is a treasure to be discovered," October is dedicated in a special way to praying the rosary. Rosary prayers are organized in churches, schools and at home. We say a prayer with beads, which is the most well-known and widespread form of Marian devotion in the world. Why October?

Well, on October 7, 1571, the fate of Christianity in Europe was decided. In the Battle of Lepanto, Christian troops defeated the Turkish army. Pope Pius V attributed this victory to the intervention of Our Lady invoked on the rosary recited during supplication processions through the streets of Rome. As a token of gratitude, he proclaimed this day the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Two years earlier, he had introduced into the Litany of Loreto the invocation "Queen of the Holy Rosary – pray for us". Also in October (October 13, 1917) in Fatima, Our Lady appeared to the children with a rosary in her hand and said: "If you want to avoid the calamity that threatens the world, pray the rosary." This is how the services gathering crowds of believers for a common rosary prayer were created, and October itself became a permanent inscribed in the Catholic Church as the Marian month of the rosary.

### Prayer of the Rosary

The Rosary is a prayer that is prayed in the Catholic Church especially in October. It is referred to as the prayer uniting Christians with the person of the Mother of Jesus and is one of the most popular prayers of the Church. Every Catholic knows it – poor and rich, child, adult and senior. It is a simple prayer, "the prayer of the sleeping, the dying, and the utterly tired". Through prayer we can entrust to Mary not only our joys and successes, but also all our sorrows and failures. The rhythmically repeated "Hail Mary" is a cry to Mary, Our Lady, asking for support. The mother will listen attentively to each one and then bring our petitions and supplications to God. Constant, persistent and patient prayer of the rosary works miracles. Therefore, let us not be afraid to reach for this effective prayer weapon for the intentions of the whole Church, all families, lonely people, lost in life and defenceless.

This month we especially want to undertake several initiatives that are to bring us closer to Mary through the prayer of the Rosary.

- 1. Every day we invite you to pray the rosary.**

Photo By: Carolina Caicedo Fotografía



YOU ARE CALLED.  
YOU MATTER.



YOU  
*belong*

[catholicyc.ca/RENEWAL](https://catholicyc.ca/RENEWAL)



October 4, 2023  
St. Francis of Assisi, Memorial

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, we begin a pathway of pastoral renewal in the Diocese of Calgary.

What is a pastoral renewal, and why did we decide to launch it on this day?

A pastoral renewal is an invitation to the Church of the Diocese of Calgary to renew and

strengthen our commitment as individuals, parishes, and as a diocese to live the life that Christ calls us to in the midst of our world.

We respond to His call through our baptism, our personal witness of the Faith and our desire to participate in the mission that Christ entrusted to the Church.

Our pastoral renewal is being launched on the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi and it coincides with the opening of the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in Rome where I am currently present with Pope

Francis, my brother bishops, and delegates from around the world. The life of our Diocese is united with the universal Church as witnessed through my participation at the Synod but also in our embarking on this pastoral renewal. It is in learning the synodal way of walking with others on the path of salvation, we encounter one another and experience together the presence of Christ in our midst and those whom He is calling us to serve.

While praying in the little church of St. Damian, St. Francis was drawn to the San Damiano cross and from there heard the voice of the Lord saying to him to repair His house which is falling apart. While mindful of the chapel that was in disrepair, St. Francis was much more aware of the call of Christ to lead the Church on a path of prayer, penance, and renewal. He did this by following Him more intently and in joyful humility living his life and offering his work as a more authentic witness of Christ to all his brothers and sisters.

In a similar way, through this pastoral renewal, Catholics in the Diocese of Calgary are being called to intensify our following of Christ through three areas of pastoral priority that will help us as the Church to become more intentional in walking with the people. They are the fruit of our diocesan phase of the Synod and a year long process of further prayer, dialogue and discernment. In the coming years this pastoral renewal will call us:

- 1 To be intentional in living our baptism and in the orientation of the parishes and the Diocese in being formed as missionary disciples of our Lord.
- 2 To be a church of encounter and witness, to grow in our ability to listen to people's lived experiences, to be more present to one another through our shared faith and more authentic in our witness to Christ in word and deed.

- 3 Finally, to strengthen the human family in our own homes, in our parishes, in our schools, and in places where the Lord sends us so that we learn to accompany people at all stages of life.



This pastoral renewal, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, will enable us to respond better to the call for a deeper conversion and experience the renewal that is needed in our world today.

As we embark on this path of renewal in the Diocese may we share in the zeal and passion of St. Francis in following Christ, and may we imitate all the saints who accepted their call to renewal within the Church by choosing the path of courage, fidelity and humility in being one with the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. McGrattan".

+William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary



Image: St. Francis in the Desert  
Giovanni Bellini (Italian, ca. 1434/35-1516)



## MASS INTENTIONS

# October 1– 31, 2023

October 1	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	St. Andrew's CWL Sisters Our Parish
October 2	9:00 am	Mavis Hills
October 3	7:00 pm	Therese Driver
October 4	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass
October 5	9:15 am	Celia Allpress
October 6	9:15 am	Gerard Farrell †
October 7	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Robyn Buziak Conner Bateman
October 8	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Carole Tapang Zombou
October 9	9:00 am	Pat & Betty Farrell †
October 10	7:00 pm	Theresa Fallows †
October 11	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Louise Sivacoe SFDS CWL Sisters
October 12	9:15 am	Tim McLean
October 13	9:15 am	Frieda Hutcheon
October 14	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Danny & Mary Rehak † Ann-Marie Stokes †
October 15	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Leonce Desbiens
October 16	9:00 am	Tony Van Wezel †
October 17	7:00 pm	Theresa Fallows †
October 18	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	Rodney Michalkow Therese Driver
October 19	9:15 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
October 20	9:15 am	John
October 21	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Fran Dudley Our Parish
October 22	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	St. Andrews CWL Sisters Michelle Schaefer †
October 23	9:00 am	Jerry Rosell
October 24	7:00 pm	Judy McLaughlin
October 25	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Rodney Michalkow Terry Van Wezel †
October 26	9:15 am	Celia Allpress
October 27	9:15 am	Larry Driver
October 28	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Juliette Desbiens Theresa Fallows †
October 29	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Pat Macdonald
October 30	9:00 am	Deacon Larry & Therese
October 31	7:00 pm	Janet Bennett



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