



St. Francis De Sales Parish BULLETIN



10 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

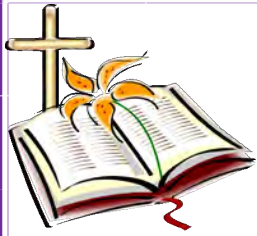
Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

II SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10,
2023



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11) Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile.

Second Reading: (2 Peter 3:8-14) The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle.

Gospel: (Mark 1:1-8) But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God—the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

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

PREPARATION - OR LACK OF IT!

To avoid offending anybody, plenty of schools dropped religion altogether and started singing about the weather. At my friend's school, they now hold the winter program in February and sing increasingly non-memorable songs such as "Winter Wonderland," "Frosty the Snowman" and this is real song "Suzy Snowflake," all of which is pretty funny because they live in Florida. A visitor from another planet would assume that the children belonged to the Church of Meteorology.=



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 Reconciliation

We will be having confession on **Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023**, after the 6:00 pm Mass. There will be guest Priests here to take confessions.

All are welcome!



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!



"Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So, pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress with Christ himself."
-St. Ignatius of Antioch

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!**

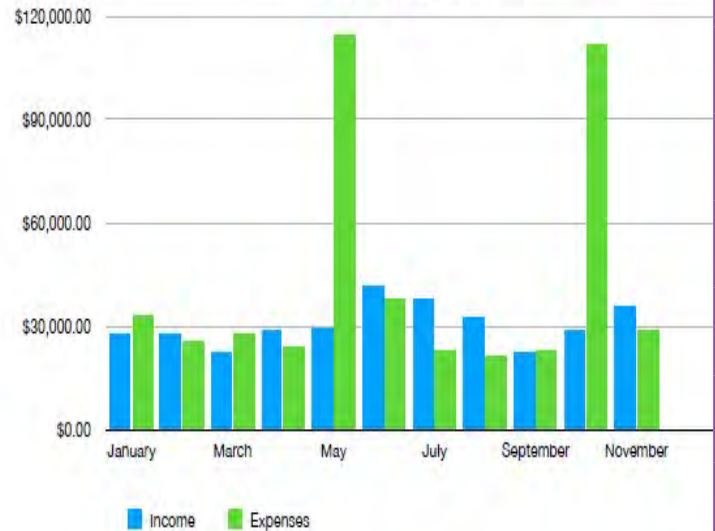
SFDS Financial Report January – November 2023

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.



Knights of Columbus®

The next K of C meeting is
Monday, December 11
at 7:00 pm
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

2023 Together IN ACTION

Annual Diocesan Appeal

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

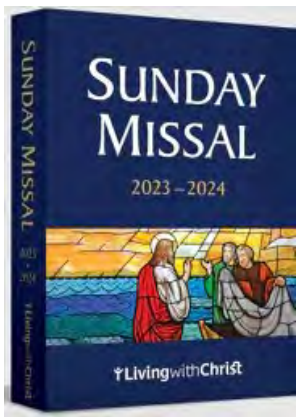
**OHHH WE'RE
HALF WAY THERE!**



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



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



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



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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