



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

14 OF SEPTEMBER



Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Office

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LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm - High River
Sunday 9:00 am - Vulcan
Sunday 11:00 am - High River
Sunday 5:00 pm - High River

CONFESSIONS

Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

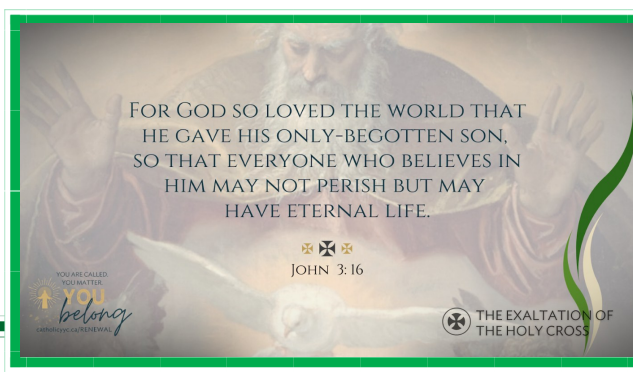


Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Wisdom 9:13-18) The author of Wisdom concludes something which even modern-day scientists admit to, that is that despite ever-increasing knowledge and discoveries, in the end we still know very little about reality. Being a creature “of the earth” limits us, making it impossible to attain any certitude. It is only thanks to the greater gift of the “holy spirit from on high” that we can gain greater, transcendent knowledge.

Second Reading: (Philemon-9b-10, 12-17) Paul did not criticize the institution of slavery, but his words of love to Philemon and his desire to have Onesimus regarded as a co-worker reveal the apostle’s thoughts: Paul loathes anything that separates people from one another. As Paul stated in Galatians 3:28, in Christ there is no division, no slave or free person, and this has radical consequences for our relationships.

Gospel: (Luke 14: 25-33) Using a strong word like “hate” makes the point very clear: discipleship comes before family obligations and customs. The cost of discipleship is mind-boggling, an all-or-nothing deal, a lifelong goal and relationship, based on ultimate trust in God’s wisdom and providence. Jesus suggests that we consider the consequences of our “yes” to God – are we willing to go all the way?



September 14, 2025

It is with great sadness that the family of Daniel Dormer announce his sudden passing on Friday, September 5, 2025.

Born in Peterborough, ON, and residing in High River, AB. Dan is survived by his wife Cora, daughter



Grace, granddaughter April, sister Nancy Martin and family. Dan was predeceased by his parents, Kenneth and Doris Dormer and his first wife Shirley.

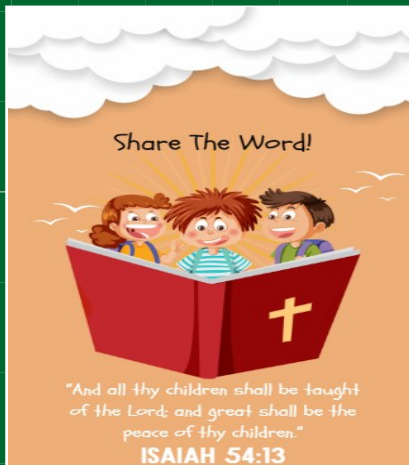
Dan was very well known, respected, and loved by his family, friends, and community. A Funeral will be held at a later date.

Share The Word

We Need Your Help!

We are needing more volunteers to help with our **Share the Word—Children’s Liturgy** Sunday mornings at the 11:00 mass. Your time commitment would be once a month for 20 minutes during the 11:00 am mass.

If you are interested and would like more information, please call Nancy in the office at 403-652-2203 or email her at secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com



1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist 2025/2026

The registration link is now open online, on our website to register your child for **1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion**

Your child must be in Grade 2-6 for this Sacrament.

(please note: deadline for registration is **September 24, 2025**)

Please go to our website to register for these Sacraments

<https://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com>

Parent Info Sessions for 1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist is

Sept. 13, at 6:00 pm in the church. Dates for the classes will be provided at this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at the church office by phone: 403-652-2203 or by email:

secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com

Online Giving



Parish Website



A Reflection on the Life and Passing of Charlie Kirk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As your Parish Priest here in our small parish in Alberta, my heart is heavy as I write these words about the tragic and senseless shooting that claimed the life of Charlie Kirk in the United States. Though this event happened beyond our borders, it is not distant from us. Violence and hatred know no boundaries, and the pain of loss touches the entire Body of Christ.

In the midst of a deeply divided world, Charlie Kirk's life and work were marked by passion and conviction. Charlie Kirk was known as a man who stood for life, family, faith, and truth. His witness—however imperfect like all of ours—was rooted in a conviction that God has given each human life dignity and purpose. Whether one agreed with his views or not, it is undeniable that he sought to make an impact on the world around him.

His assassination reminds us in a most painful way how fragile life is, and how urgently our world needs GOD!

As a priest, my role is not to judge or endorse, but to call us all to compassion, understanding, and prayer. In the face of death, we are reminded of our shared humanity and the call to love one another as Christ loves us. Let us not allow differences to divide us, but rather let us find common ground in our shared sorrow and our shared hope in the Resurrection.

May we also use this moment to reflect on our own lives. Are we living in a way that reflects the Gospel values of love, mercy, and justice? Are we building bridges or walls? These are questions we must all ask ourselves as we navigate the complexities of our time.

Let us offer our prayers for the repose of Charlie Kirk's soul, for his family and loved ones who mourn his loss, and for all who are grieving. May the Lord grant him eternal rest and may His light shine upon us all, guiding us toward unity and peace.

Prayers for the Deceased and the Bereaved

Eternal Rest Prayer

Eternal rest grant unto Charlie, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer for the Bereaved

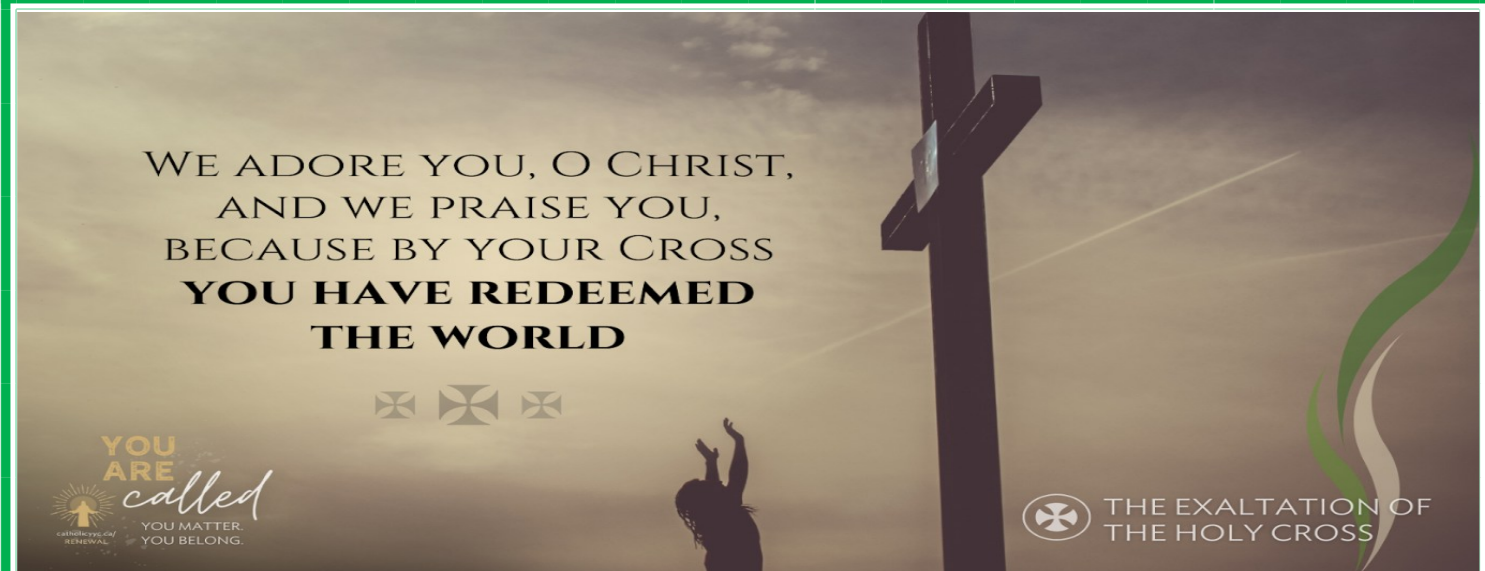
Lord, we lift up Charlie's family and friends to Your loving care. Comfort them in their sorrow, strengthen them in their faith, and surround them with Your peace. May they find solace in the hope of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. Amen.

Prayer for Unity

Gracious God, in a world often divided, help us to see one another as You see us—as beloved children of Yours. Teach us to love as You love, to forgive as You forgive, and to seek unity in the midst of diversity. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

May the peace of Christ be with us all.

Fr. Marius Sztuk, SDS



WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST,
AND WE PRAISE YOU,
BECAUSE BY YOUR CROSS
YOU HAVE REDEEMED
THE WORLD

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14

On September 14, the Church celebrates one of the most ancient and profound feasts in our liturgical calendar: the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. While Good Friday brings us to the foot of the Cross in sorrow and penance, this feast is a day of triumph, lifting high the Cross as the very sign of God's victory over sin and death.

The origins of this feast go back to the 4th century. According to tradition, St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, journeyed to the Holy Land and discovered the True Cross upon which Jesus was crucified. Not long after, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem on the site of Christ's death and resurrection. The dedication of that basilica, on September 14 in the year 335, marked the beginning of this feast. Since then, Christians across the world have paused each year to remember the Cross not as a tool of humiliation, but as the instrument of our salvation.

The Cross is a paradox. To the world, it appears as a sign of weakness and defeat; but for us, as St. Paul reminds us, "*the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*" (1 Cor 1:18). Through Christ's suffering and death, God transformed the very symbol of shame into a source of grace and hope. The Cross teaches us that no suffering is meaningless when it is united to Christ. It shows us that love is stronger than hatred, and life stronger than death.

This feast also challenges us personally. The Cross is not only a historical event; it is part of our daily discipleship. Jesus tells us: "*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me*" (Mt 16:24). Each of us carries burdens, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. The Cross reminds us that when we embrace these trials with faith, they can become paths to holiness and instruments of God's grace in the world.

As we celebrate this feast, let us lift high the Cross in our own lives. Let us make the Sign of the Cross with reverence, wear it not as jewelry but as a testimony of faith, and see in it the unshakable proof of God's love for us. May the Cross always be our hope, our strength, and our victory, leading us toward the joy of the Resurrection.

"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world."

Practical Ways to Honor the Feast

- Begin the day by making the Sign of the Cross slowly and prayerfully, asking God to bless your day.
- Place a crucifix in a prominent place at home and gather as a family to pray the *Stations of the Cross* or the *Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary*
- Offer your daily struggles, big or small, in union with the Cross of Christ.
- Attend Mass and receive the Eucharist, the fruit of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.

End the day with the prayer: *We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world."*

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 fr-marius@francisdesaleshighriver.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 reserve, love him without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever."



Sunday Offering

Did you know we now take Donations electronically! **You have the following options: Direct Debit, Visa, M/C.** 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 all Nancy in the church office at **403-652-2203** or email her at secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com



Adoration

Please join us for Adoration after the 9:00 am Mass on Thursdays. **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 secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com **All are welcome!**

St. Francis de Sales 2026 Offering Envelopes

If you are interested in Offering Envelopes for 2026, please contact Nancy in the church office by phone, **403-652-2203** or email secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com

Please Note: we have other options for Sunday Offerings which are : Direct Debit, Visa, M/C. and E-transfer.

Saint Francis de Sales
High River, AB

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Amount \$ _____

Are you interested in:

☐ Learning more about our ministry?

☐ Having a visit from the pastor?

☐ Joining our church?

How did you hear about us? _____

SFDS Gift Shop

Have you checked out our Gift Shop Showcase?

We have Rosaries for sale, as well as Baptism, 1st Communion and Confirmation gifts.

If you are interested in buying one, please see Nancy in the church office during office hours, or call her at 403-652-2203, or email at secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com



St. Francis de Sales Special Envelope Days

New Year's Day	January 01, 2025
SFDS Helping Hands	February 09, 2025
Together in Action	April 06, 2025
Needs of the Church in the Holy Land	April 18, 2025
Easter	April 20, 2025
Good Shepherd Sunday	May 11, 2025
SFDS Helping Hands	May 18, 2025
The Pope's Pastoral Works	May 25, 2025
Together in Action	June 01, 2025
SFDS Helping Hands	June 08, 2025
SFDS Helping Hands	August 10, 2025
Together in Action	September 07, 2025
SFDS Helping Hands	September 14, 2025
World Mission Sunday	October 19, 2025
Catholic Education Sunday	November 02, 2025
Together in Action	November 09, 2025
SFDS Helping Hands	November 16, 2025
Holy Childhood Sunday	December 14, 2025
Christmas	December 25, 2025

Saint Francis de Sales
High River, AB

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Amount \$ _____

Are you interested in:

☐ Learning more about our ministry?

☐ Having a visit from the pastor?

☐ Joining our church?

How did you hear about us? _____

“For it is
in
giving
that
we
receive.”
~ St. Francis of Assisi



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.





You Are Not Alone – Grief Sharing Support Group

*A Christ-centered
path to healing
after loss*

Grief is one of the most profound and painful experiences of the human heart. The loss of a spouse, family member, or close friend can shake the very foundation of our lives, leaving us with sorrow, confusion, and deep loneliness. In these moments, we may ask, “Where is God in my pain?”

If you are walking through the valley of grief, we invite you to take a step toward healing in the loving presence of Christ and the support of a faith-filled community. Beginning on **24 September**, our parish will host a **Grief Sharing** program, grounded in Christian compassion and understanding. The video sessions will take place **every Wednesday from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**.

- **September 24** – Is This Normal?
- **October 1** – Your Grief Journey
- **October 8** – Loneliness & Sadness
- **October 15** – Self-Care
- **October 22** – Fearful & Overwhelmed
- **October 29** – Anger
- **November 5** – Regrets
- **November 12** – Grief & Your Household
- **January 7** – Grief & Your Friendship
- **January 14** – Questions for God
- **January 21** – Stuck in Grief
- **January 28** – Hope & Resilience
- **February 4** – What Do I Live For Now?

Grief Sharing is more than just a support group — it is a spiritual journey. Through Scripture, prayer, group discussion, and gentle guidance, we seek to discover the hope and comfort that only God can provide. Together, we will reflect on the healing promises of Christ, who said, “*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*” (Matthew 5:4).

This group is a safe and welcoming space where you can speak freely about your loss, listen to the stories of others, and begin to experience God’s peace, even in the midst of sorrow.

If you feel called to take part in this ministry of healing, please contact the **parish office** at: (secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com) or speak directly with **Sharon** (Sharon Wallace sewallace74@gmail.com) who will be facilitating the program.

***Remember, grief shared in faith is never carried alone.
Christ walks with you — and so do we.***



New Sunday Mass at Our Parish – Bishop’s Decision

Dear Parishioners,

In recent months, together with the Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgical Ministry, and representatives of various parish groups, we have been discerning the need for an additional Sunday Mass in our community. Many of you have noticed that during the 11:00 a.m. Mass, our church is overcrowded. As a result, many parishioners attending Mass sit in the hall. Parking is also a challenge on Sundays.

After parish-wide consultation and a survey showing the support of the faithful, I wrote to Bishop McGrattan requesting permission to add a 5 p.m. Sunday Mass.

I am pleased that the Bishop has granted permission **on a trial basis (ad experimentum)**. The new Sunday Mass will be celebrated at **5 p.m.**, beginning on **September 7**, and continuing until **December 28, 2025**.

In early December, I will report to the Bishop on how parishioners have received this Mass. Based on that, the Bishop will decide whether to make this Mass permanent (with the exception of July and August due to reduced availability of ministers).

I invite new lectors, ushers, and parishioners who would like to take an active part in this liturgy to contact me directly for details. **Your** involvement will help to serve the needs of our growing parish.

I sincerely thank all of you who took part in the consultations by expressing yourself. The introduction of this new Mass is the fruit of our shared concern that everyone can participate in the Eucharist in a prayerful and welcoming environment.

Fr. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS
Parish Priest



*The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.
The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.*

MOTHER TERESA

SFDS Prayer Chain

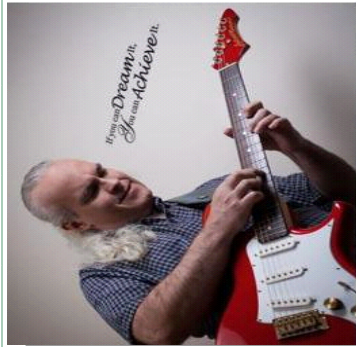
Did you know that St. Francis de Sales has a Prayer chain Ministry?

If you are interested in joining the SFDS Prayer Chain, please call Nancy in the church office at 403-652-2203 or email her at secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com

MASS INTENTIONS

September 1– 30,

September 1	9:00 am	Maggie Lester & Family
September 2	7:00 pm	Robert Tyminski †
September 3	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass
September 4	9:15 am	Alan Fath †
September 5	9:15 am	Moyra Walton †
September 6	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Walter Zelinski† Alison Hitchmough & Family
September 7	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Tony Van Wezel † Jessie Oraq Malicay †
September 8	9:00 am	Kazmer Zelinski †
September 9	7:00 pm	Robert Tyminiski †
September 10	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Gilbert & Denise Bremner † SFDS CWL Sisters
September 11	9:15 am	John & Belinda Hoffart †
September 12	9:15 am	Al & Agnes Downs †
September 13	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Bill Ward † Our Parish
September 14	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	St. Andrews CWL Sisters Bligio & Conching Bernadith † Cathy Walton †
September 15	9:00 am	Tom Rosell †
September 16	7:00 pm	Mary McGough †
September 17	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	Joseph Thien Myra & Garth Olver
September 18	9:15 am	John Hoffart Jr. †
September 19	9:15 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
September 20	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Rosemarie Walter Theresa Fallows †
September 21	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Jill Barton † *****
September 22	9:00 am	Nicholas Curzon
September 23	7:00 pm	Sr's Mary, Theresa & Loretta Rice †
September 24	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Barbara Charette Kay Rosell
September 25	9:15 am	Frank Charette †
September 26	9:15 am	Theresa Fallows †
September 27	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Colleen Bremner Our Parish
September 28	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Anne Pavka † Nancy Barton & Family *****
September 29	9:00 am	Kevin Pomeroy
September 30	7:00 pm	Ann Sekura †



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