



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

21 OF SEPTEMBER



Praise the Lord who lifts up the needy.

Office

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Music Coordinator: Donna Abramson
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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

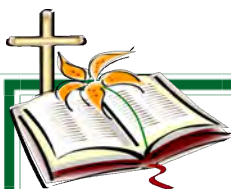
Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

XXV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 21, 2025



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Amos 8:4-7) The words of Amos, spoken almost 2,800 years ago, still hit us in a powerful manner today. If there's anything that provokes God's wrath, it's the exploitation of the poor by the rich, says the prophet. In Amos' day -- as much as today -- self-centred commercialism reigned in many places instead of "love of neighbour." The "sweepings of the wheat" were not worth much and lawfully belonged to the poor, but even that was disregarded. Such was the contempt of the rich for the law, for the poor, and for God.

Second Reading: (1 Timothy-2-1-7) In this letter Paul offers some practical advice about Christian prayer and authentic liturgy. To urge prayers for those in civic authority illustrates that the Christian life is to be lived out in the world. To combat the false notion that Christians embraced an ideology that divorced from the world, Paul wants to avoid that we get lost in some otherworldly beliefs and cut ourselves off from the ordinariness of daily life.

Gospel: (Luke 16: 1-13) The parable of the dishonest manager does exactly what a good parable should do: it jars us and makes us pay attention! Here we find Jesus praising the business manager for his astute and clever ways, given that if the debtor forgave some of the debts that were owed, the customers would show further favour toward him. This is exactly what God does with us many times more, in that when we accumulate a debt of sin and ask for forgiveness God sets us free of these shackles and so we should love and praise Him evermore. Secondly Jesus points out that money is for people and should not be used vice versa. When money is used for the sake of people we can become good stewards, when money is not used for the common good, it means we love money more than God.

For more information about these reflections, please contact Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Diocese Communications, 306-659-5844 or kyaworski@rcdos.ca.

Church Painting Update

Dear Parishioners,

I am delighted to announce that the painting of our church, parish hall, and the interior of our buildings was successfully completed from September 2 to September 15, 2025. During this period, we held Masses in the parish hall, while weekend Masses continued in the main church. I recognize that this may have caused inconvenience, particularly for groups unable to use the parish hall. Your patience and understanding during this time are deeply appreciated.

We are now thrilled to return to our regular routine, celebrating in our beautifully refreshed church. Thank you all for your support and cooperation!

With gratitude,
Fr. Marius

IT'S FINISHED!

Praise the LORD
who lifts up the needy

✠ ✠ ✠
PSALM 78

YOU ARE called
25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The office will be closed **Tuesday, September 30, 2025** for the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.**

Regular Office hours will resume on **Wednesday, Oct. 1 2025 @ 9:00 am.**



SFDS Children's Choir

All children are welcome to join our Children's Choir. This wonderful choir leads the 11:00am Mass on the first Sunday of each month during the school year.



Practices are the Wednesday before, at 4:30pm at SFDS with the first practice **Wednesday, October 1st.**

For questions, please reach out to Annah Baldwin (ahbanana2@gmail.com).



Online Giving



Parish Website





100th Year of Council

Notes on the 100 years of the Catholic Women's League in High River

This year marks our 100th year as a Council in High River. Our Council was formed October 15th, 1925 under the direction of Mrs. McCrohan, the Diocesan President of Calgary. Mrs. B.F. Kiser was the first President and Countess De Foras was the first Vice-President.

Tickets for our celebration will be for sale after mass on the weekends. The tickets are \$5.00 each.



The next K of C meeting is **Monday September 22 at 7:00 pm** in the SFDS Church hall.

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



Invitation to Bible Study

Dear Parishioners,

We invite all those interested in exploring the Holy Scriptures to join our parish Bible Study! For several years, we have been meeting to discover the beauty and wisdom of God's Word together, and this year is no exception.

In the coming weeks, we will begin studying the **Gospel of St. Luke**. Meetings will take place every **Wednesday, starting October 1st, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at our parish.**

You don't need to be an expert to participate – our Bible Study is open to everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of the Scriptures and share reflections in a friendly atmosphere.

**We warmly invite you!
See you on Wednesday!**



HIGH RIVER PRO LIFE APPLE FUNDRAISER 2025

Fresh picked Creston B.C Apples

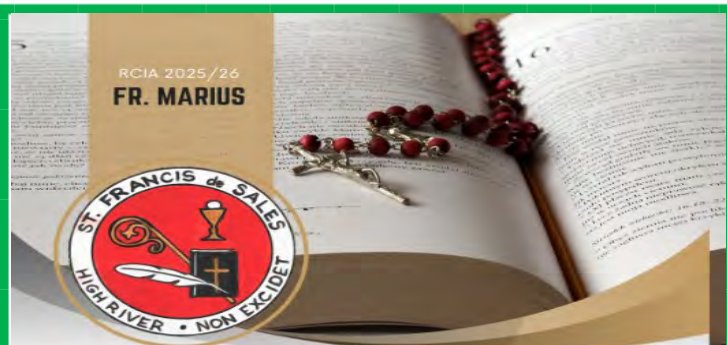
Gala, Mac Spartans and Fuji
20lb Box is \$45.00

"NEW" this year a "Mystery Box"
20lb is \$40.00

Please pre-order by calling Heather at 403-826-7926

APPLES WILL BE PICKED AND READY TO SHIP BY THE FIRST PART OF OCTOBER, AND DELIVERED TO YOU WITHIN THE WEEK. YOU WILL GET A CALL WITH THE EXACT PICK UP DATE. THE PICK UP SITE IS AT ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE DELICIOUS TASTING APPLES AND AT THE SAME TIME SUPPORTING A MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE - LIFE!



Invitation to RCIA Program

Dear Friends,

We warmly invite all those interested in exploring the Catholic faith to join our parish Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program! For many years, our parish has offered this journey of faith for those seeking to learn more about Catholicism, whether you are considering baptism, confirmation, or simply want to deepen your understanding of the faith.

This week, we will begin our RCIA sessions, diving into the foundations of Catholic teachings, spirituality, and community life. Meetings will be held **every Thursday, starting September 25, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at our parish.**

No prior knowledge or experience is required – our RCIA program is open to everyone, from those just beginning their faith journey to those looking to grow closer to God in a welcoming and supportive environment.

**We look forward to walking this journey with you!
Join us this Wednesday!**

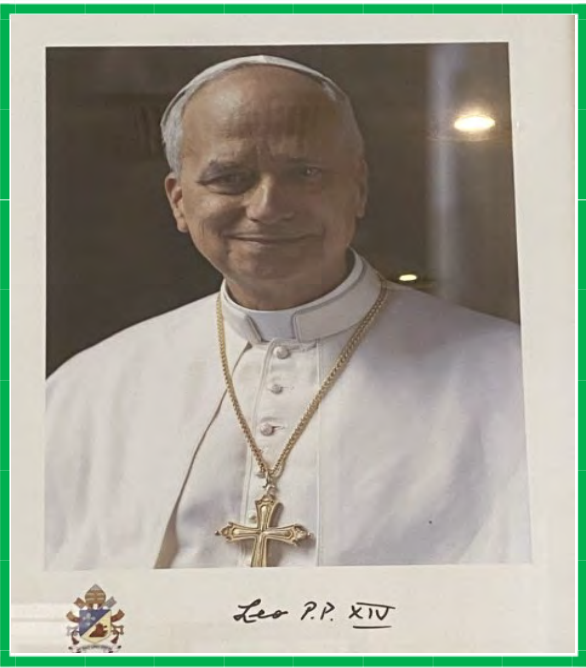
RCIA TEAM

Celebrating Pope Leo XIV's 70th Birthday: A Pontificate of Peace and Faith

This Sunday 14th of September, our parish joined the universal Church in celebrating the 70th birthday of Pope Leo XIV, reflecting on the remarkable first months of his pontificate. Elected on the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, a Chicago native with Peruvian citizenship, has emerged as a shepherd dedicated to peace, spirituality, and closeness to the faithful. Below, we highlight eight defining moments from the beginning of his Petrine ministry, as reported by Vatican News.

A Humble Beginning: The Inauguration

On May 18, 2025, Pope Leo XIV received the pallium and Fisherman's Ring during his inaugural Mass. Visibly moved, he shared his unworthiness for the role, saying, "I was chosen without any merits. With fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother who wishes to be a servant of your faith and your joy." His words set the tone for a pontificate rooted in humility and unity, calling for all to walk together in God's love as one family.



A Message of Peace

Just days earlier, on May 8, 2025, the newly elected Pope greeted the faithful from the Loggia of Blessings at St. Peter's Basilica with the words of the Risen Christ: "Peace be with you all, dearest brothers and sisters." This greeting underscored his mission to bring Christ's peace to hearts, families, and the world, a theme that has defined his early papacy.

First Journey: Seeking Mary's Guidance

On the third day of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV made his first trip outside Rome to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano. Reflecting on his earlier visits as Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine, he expressed his deep trust in Mary's intercession, stating, "I greatly desired to come here in these first days of the new ministry entrusted to me by the Church." This pilgrimage highlighted his devotion to Mary and his commitment to continuing St. Peter's mission.

A Voice for Peace

Pope Leo XIV has consistently called for peace amid global conflicts. He has offered the Vatican as a neutral venue for dialogue between Russia and Ukraine, notably during a July 9 meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and earlier discussions with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. His repeated appeals to end the "atrocities of war" in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa reflect a heart attuned to the suffering of the world.

A Return to Tradition: Castel Gandolfo

In July, the Pope revived a papal tradition by retreating to Castel Gandolfo for a "working vacation." The first pope to vacation there in 13 years, he resided in the Barberini Palace, celebrated Masses in local churches, and prayed the Angelus at Piazza della Libertà. Even during rest, he continued pastoral duties, including hosting President Zelenskyy and a Ukrainian delegation, demonstrating his commitment to both spiritual and diplomatic roles.

Inspiring the Youth

The Youth Jubilee in Rome drew over a million young people from across the globe to Tor Vergata. Pope Leo XIV urged them to see Christ in one another, proclaiming, "Friendship is about changing the world. Friendship is the path to peace." After Mass and the Angelus, he spontaneously addressed the youth again, calling them "the salt of the earth and the light of the world," entrusting them with a mission to transform the world through love.

A Prayer for Peace at Mentorella

During a private visit on August 19 to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Grace in Mentorella—a place cherished by St. John Paul II—Pope Leo XIV prayed for world peace and lit a candle before the sanctuary's patroness. Meeting with Polish Resurrectionist priests who care for the site, he deepened his connection to the Church's universal mission.

A Heart for the Poor

Following in the footsteps of Pope Francis, Leo XIV has prioritized the poor, emphasizing their centrality in the Church's mission. His actions reflect a commitment to serving the marginalized, ensuring the Church remains a beacon of hope for the neediest.

A Shepherd for Our Times

As we celebrate Pope Leo XIV's 70th birthday, these moments reveal a pontificate grounded in prayer, peace, and pastoral care. From his calls for dialogue to his devotion to Mary and his outreach to the young and the poor, he leads as a pastor attentive to the signs of the times. Let us pray for his continued guidance as he shepherds the Church toward unity and peace.

Source: www.vaticannews.va



Celebrating the Feast of the Canadian Martyrs: St. Jean de Brébeuf, St. Isaac Jogues, and Companions - September 26

As we approach the feast of the Canadian Martyrs on September 26, we use red vestments to honor these heroic witnesses to the faith. Red, the color of blood and fire, reminds us of their ultimate sacrifice and the burning zeal they carried for Christ. Among them, St. Jean de Brébeuf and St. Isaac Jogues stand out as pioneering Jesuit priests whose lives and deaths continue to inspire Catholics worldwide, especially here in Canada where they serve as secondary patrons alongside St. Joseph.

St. Jean de Brébeuf, born in France in 1593, arrived in New France (modern-day Canada) in 1625. A towering figure both physically and spiritually, he immersed himself in the Huron culture, learning their language and customs to share the Gospel. For over two decades, he labored tirelessly among the indigenous peoples, establishing missions and baptizing many. His deep respect for the Hurons earned him the name "Echon," meaning "the one who carries the heavy load." Tragically, in 1649, during conflicts between the Huron and Iroquois nations, Brébeuf was captured, tortured, and martyred by the Iroquois. Even in his final moments, he encouraged his fellow captives and forgave his tormentors, embodying Christ's love.

St. Isaac Jogues, born in 1607, joined the mission in 1636. Known for his gentle yet resolute spirit, he worked alongside Brébeuf among the Hurons. In 1642, Jogues was captured by the Mohawk (part of the Iroquois confederacy), enduring horrific tortures—including the loss of several fingers. Remarkably, he escaped with Dutch help and returned to France, but his heart remained in the New World. Pope Urban VIII granted him special permission to celebrate Mass despite his mutilated hands, calling him a "living martyr." Undeterred, Jogues returned to North America in 1646 as a peace envoy, only to be martyred by those he sought to reconcile.

These two priests were part of a group of eight Jesuits—six priests and two lay brothers—who gave their lives between 1642 and 1649: Sts. Antoine Daniel, Charles Garnier, Noël Chabanel, Gabriel Lalemant, René Goupil, and Jean de Lalande. Canonized in 1930 by Pope Pius XI and declared secondary patrons of Canada in 1940 by Pope Pius XII, they are collectively known as the North American Martyrs or Canadian Martyrs. Their mission was not one of conquest but of compassionate evangelization, bridging cultures in the name of Jesus.

In a world that often challenges our faith, these saints remind us of the cost of discipleship. They faced isolation, hardship, and violence, yet their unwavering trust in God bore fruit that endures today. As secondary patrons of Canada, they intercede for our nation, calling us to unity, reconciliation, and bold witness.

On this feast, let us pray for the grace to emulate their courage. Join us at Mass in red attire, and consider how we might "carry the load" in our own lives—perhaps through acts of service, forgiveness, or sharing the faith with others. May the Canadian Martyrs pray for us!

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

Welcome
Thank You
for joining us today.

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



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.
(deadline is Sept. 25, 2025)
Please go to our website to register for these Sacraments
<https://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com>

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

*"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.



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 † Mavis Hills
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 George & Antonina Sztuk †
September 29	9:00 am	Kevin Pomeroy
September 30	7:00 pm	Ann Sekura †



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