



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

7 OF SEPTEMBER



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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Sacramental Prep : Nancy Barton
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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
Sunday 5:00 pm - High River

CONFESSIONS

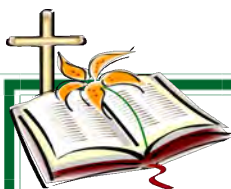
Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 1,
2025



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?

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



Why Did the Pope Give Away a BMW Motorcycle—but Not a Harley-Davidson?

One day, someone asked the Pope why he once gave away a BMW motorcycle, but never a Harley-Davidson. The Holy Father smiled and said, "Well, my child, sometimes you must give away the good... but you never give away the *holy*."

You see, the Pope explained that BMWs are fine machines, practical and efficient. But a Harley? That's different. A Harley is a pilgrimage on two wheels, a hymn sung in chrome and thunder. Even saints would pause at the roar of a Harley and say, "Now that sounds like Heaven's engine."

And so the Pope gave away the BMW with joy, but he kept the Harley—for even Popes know some treasures are better shared by riding them down the road, blessing the wind, and scaring off a few devils with the rumble of the pipes.



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**



Mass Cancelled

The Mass on **Monday, Sept. 8 at 9:00 am** is cancelled, as Fr. Mariusz will be at the Jubilee Mass for the Priests with the Bishop McGratton. **Regular mass will resume**



The office will be closed to the public next week, as the painters will be painting the offices.

If you need to get a hold of Nancy, you can call her at **403-652-2203**, or if you need Fr. Mariusz, you can call him at **403-992-2313**



Church Painting Project

As many of you surely remember, it has been over 10 years since our church and parish hall were last painted. If you look around carefully, you will notice that the time has come once again to refresh our sacred space.

Originally, the painting project was scheduled to take place during the summer holidays. However, due to the busy schedule of the

group undertaking this work, the project will now begin on September 2 and is expected to be completed by September 17.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and ask for your kind patience.

- **Sunday Masses** will continue in the main church (no work will be carried out on weekends).
- **Weekday Masses** from **September 2–10** will be celebrated in the parish hall foyer.
- During this time, there will be **no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** and other parish activities will be
- suspended.

Thank you very much for your understanding and support as we take this step to care for and beautify our parish home.

Fr. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS
Parish Priest

YOU ARE called
↑ YOU MATTER ↓ YOU BELONG

CCIS
WORLD DAY OF
MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

WITH CELEBRANT
BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

SATURDAY 27 SEP 5 PM | AT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, CALGARY

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE RECEPTION AFTER MASS



The High River Pro Life meeting will be on **Monday, Sept. 8 at 7:00 pm** at the Medicine Tree Manor.
Doors open at 6:45

All are welcome!



Your change
changes lives



Your generosity supports real families facing real challenges! By filling a bottle, you're joining a community of generous people, coming together to bring hope to young families in our community. The bottles added together provide support for today and impact for generations.

Participating is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1
Put your cash, coins, or a cheque in the bottle, or donate online.

2
Bring your bottle back on Father's Day (June 15th).

3
Sign up for our newsletter and keep us in your prayers.

Other Ways to Give:

- **Donate online** <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mainsprings/>
- **E-transfer** to accounting@mainsprings.com
- **Send a cheque** payable to Mainsprings
- **Scan our QR code**

*Donations \$25 or more will be issued a donation receipt.

Donate Today!



Mainsprings Pregnancy and Family Support Association is planning to raise an estimated amount of \$500,000 this year on fundraising campaigns. It will cost our organization an estimated \$90,000 to raise this. The money raised will go to board-approved programs. For further information, please contact Dennis Kubeck at 403-269-3130. Our address is 205, 525 - 7 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1A5.

Prayer is the best weapon we possess. It is the key that opens the heart of God.

SAN PÍO DE PIETRELCINA

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

A Huge Thank you!

Thank you to the generous parishioners of St Francis de Sales and St. Andrew's for helping us out with our annual Baby Bottle Campaign. You raised **\$2792.89**. It is greatly appreciated!

Together in Action 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

Together in Action (TIA) is the Diocese of Calgary's annual campaign to support key ministries, partner organizations, and agencies.

As *Pilgrims of Hope* in this Jubilee Year, we are invited to live out the words of St. Paul in Romans 12:12:

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."

Through TIA, we put this call into action—offering hope, supporting those facing hardship, and strengthening the Church's mission.

The 2025 Together in Action campaign seeks to raise funds for essential initiatives, including:

- Care for retired priests
- Hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care
- Diocesan ministries that serve our parishes
- The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

Our Parish Goal: \$24,463
Raised so far: \$6,427

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of those who have already contributed. Your support allows us to care for those in need and build up the mission of the Church here in our diocese. If you have not yet had the chance to give, we warmly encourage you to prayerfully consider making a donation. Every gift, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal and makes a difference in the lives of many.

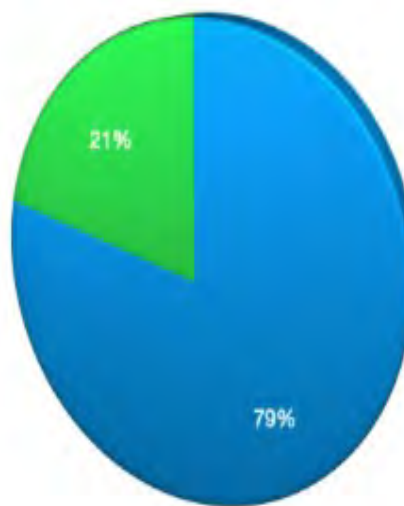
Together, let us walk as *Pilgrims of Hope* and live out our faith in action!

Together in Action - Parish Fundraising

Month	Income	Balance	Needed
January	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00	\$24,273.00
February	\$ 235.00	\$ 235.00	\$24,038.00
March	\$ 310.00	\$ 310.00	\$24,038.00
April	\$3,057.00	\$3,057.00	\$23,963.00
May	\$ 485.00	\$ 485.00	\$21,216.00
June	\$1,415.00	\$1,415.00	\$23,788.00
July	\$ 625.00	\$ 625.00	\$22,858.00
August	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00	\$23,648.00
September			\$24,163.00
October			\$24,273.00
November			\$24,273.00
December			\$24,273.00

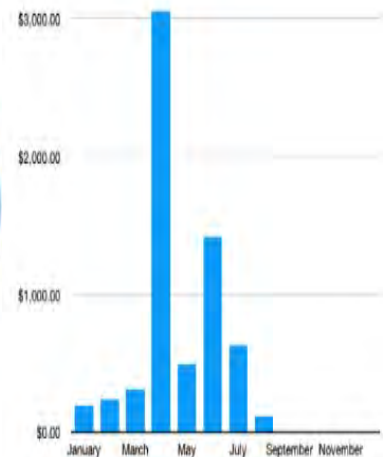
● Rides Goal

● We Have



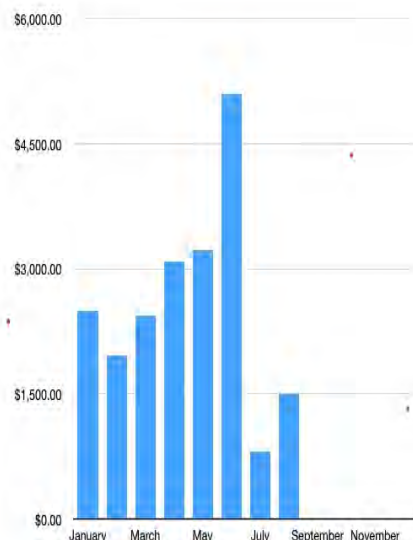
Together in Action 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

Rides Goal	\$ 24,273.00
We Have	\$ 6,427.00



Helping Hand Tracker.

Month	Income	Balance
January	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 0.00
February	\$ 1,960.00	\$ 5913.26
March	\$ 2,435.00	\$ 4109.03
April	\$ 3,084.00	\$ 4879.64
May	\$ 3,230.00	\$ 2608.04
June	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 0.00
July	\$ 805.00	\$ 3000.00
August	\$ 1,499.00	\$ 3195.32
September		
October		
November		
December		
TOTAL:	\$20,613.00	\$ 23,705.29

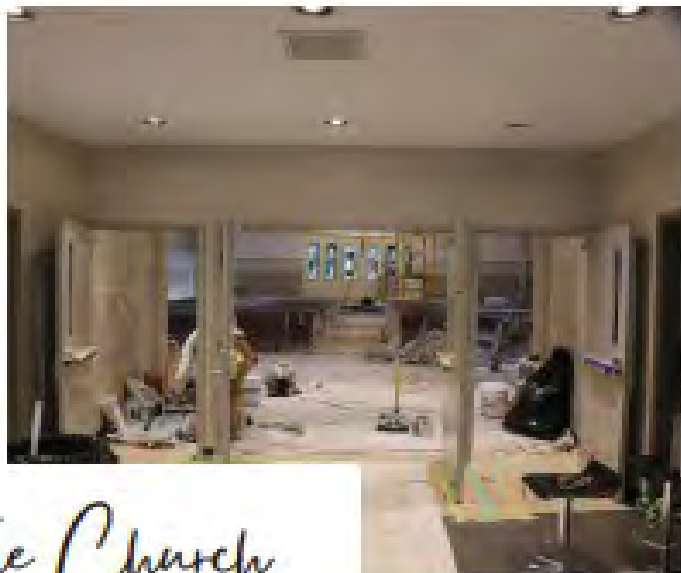


Report for the months of April–August 2025

The St. Francis de Sales Ministry has helped a total number of **14** people for the months of April to September, 2025. We paid out a total of **\$8,819.64** for bills, rent, or mortgages, as well, we gave a total of **\$900.00** in fuel cards, and **\$2100.00** in grocery cards. The total assistance we have given this period is **\$11,819.64**

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.



Painting the Church

SEPTEMBER - 2025





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.

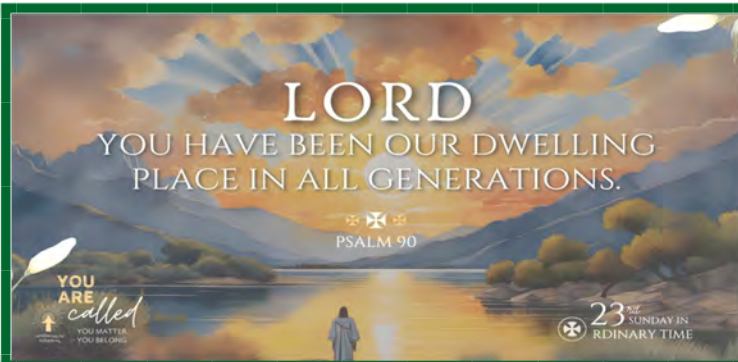
I am pleased that the Bishop has granted permission **on a trial basis (ad experimentum)**. The new Sunday Mass will be celebrated at **5 p.m.**, beginning on **September 7**, and continuing until **December 28, 2025**.

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

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Prayer chain Ministry?

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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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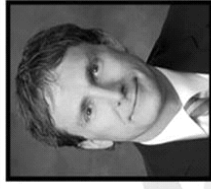


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