



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

14 DECEMBER



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER • VULCAN, AB



Office

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

Office Phone # 403-652-2203
Fax # 403-601-3886
Email: secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com

Contact Us

Parish Priest : Fr. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS
Email: dzambel@me.com
Phone: 403-992-2313

Deacon: Larry R. Driver
Email: deaconldriver@gmail.com

Secretary: Nancy Barton
Email: secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com
Phone: 403-652-2203
Sacramental Prep : Nancy Barton
Email: secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com

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

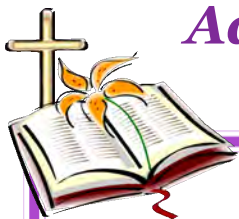
CONFESSIONS

Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

III SUNDAY OF ADVENT



3rd Sunday of Advent



Are you the one

WHO IS TO COME?

MATTHEW 11:3



December 14, 2025

Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10) Isaiah's evocative words continue to paint for us a picture of the beauty and healing when God's grace rules creation. Last week we heard about peace between animals and humans. This week we hear of a flowering in unlikely places like the desert and the wilderness, followed by physical healing for people. This vision of physical flowering and restoration is completed by a political resolution as the people in exile return to their homeland.

Second Reading: (James 5:7-10) Of all the words of promise and vision in the Advent readings, James adds the importance of patience. He alerts us to the example of the prophets who were patient and endured suffering as they announced God's word to the people. John the Baptist clearly stands in this line of witnesses.

Gospel: (Matthew 11: 2-11) Last Sunday, we heard John the Baptist preach the coming of a strong Messiah who would restore order and punish evil people, and ensure that justice would prevail. Now Jesus has arrived, and John has doubts while in prison, so he asks Jesus the question: "Are you the one?" Jesus points to what is happening: healing, new life and Good News proclaimed. But this is not what John had envisioned: that salvation is not punitive but salvific. Instead of judgment, Jesus announces God's mercy. Instead of imposing a new world order, Jesus invites people into a new covenant that transforms their lives, and Jesus shows special care to the excluded and the suffering.

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



Francis "Frank" Paslawski Obituary

It is with deep sadness that the family of Francis "Frank" Paslawski announce his peaceful passing on December 5, 2025. Frank was born on the family farm in southeast Saskatchewan, where he developed a lifelong love of the outdoors, a tireless work ethic, and a spirit of adventure. In April 1958, he married Verna Schmitz, and together they moved to Calgary the following year to begin a life filled with partnership, family, and countless shared experiences.

Frank began his working life as a truck driver before starting a long and proud career with Greyhound in 1967. For more than twenty-five years, until his retirement in 1994, he embraced the open road and the connections he formed with fellow drivers and passengers alike.

Frank lived a full and remarkable life. He cherished hunting and fishing, especially when joined by his family, and his love of adventure inspired him to take on many pursuits. In 1975, he built the family home in High River with his own hands. He earned his pilot's licence, learned to play guitar, accordion, and piano entirely by ear, and shared his musical talents as a volunteer with Reg and Friends, a beloved local band. He explored the craft of woodworking, creating beautiful pieces for his children and others in the community. Frank also coached and played hockey, baseball, and curling, and spent time trapping during the winters.

One of his greatest joys was raising his prized Arabian horse, Okie. Together they travelled many Rocky Mountain passes, forging a bond that became one of Frank's favourite stories to tell. His love of the water was equally strong; over the years he owned many boats, including a large trawler that he salvaged and rebuilt. With Verna and their children, he spent nearly a decade sailing the North Pacific coast, creating memories that shaped the family's life forever.

Frank was deeply committed to his community. He gave generously of his time at church, at the High River Community Garden, at the Sheppard Family Park, and wherever help was needed. He was the loudest and proudest supporter at his children's and grandchildren's sporting events, celebrating every moment alongside them.

Above all, Frank's greatest pride was his family. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of 67 years, Verna; their children Danny (Wanda), Kerry (Monica), Cheryl (Jim) Munro, and Pat (Caroline); and their nine grandchildren—Laura, Leah, Lori, Erin, Julia, Megan, Jared, Gibson, and Andie—each of whom brought him immense joy.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, December 12, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Frances de Sales Catholic Church, 206 9 Ave SW, High River, AB.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to Father Marius, Dr. Gordillo, and the compassionate staff of the Emergency and Palliative Care units at the High River Hospital for ensuring that Frank's final days were peaceful and pain-free.

Frank lived a life rich in love, service, adventure, and laughter. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Little Johnny Waits for Christmas

Little Johnny could hardly contain himself—Christmas was still weeks away, and he had already shaken every present under the tree at least twice. His parents tried everything to keep him patient: Advent calendars, Christmas cookies, even helping decorate the tree. Nothing worked.

One evening, Johnny sat down with great seriousness and began writing a letter to Jesus:

"Dear Jesus,
If You bring me a new bike for Christmas, I promise to be good for a whole week."

He read it, frowned, and crossed it out.
"A *whole* week is too long," he muttered.

He tried again:
"Dear Jesus, I promise to be good for three days."

Still too ambitious.

Finally, Johnny disappeared to the Nativity scene in the living room. His parents watched as he gently picked up the little statue of Mary... and walked off with it.

A few minutes later, they heard him whispering in his room:
"Dear Jesus... if You ever want to see Your Mother again..."

Needless to say, Johnny did *not* get the bike—but he did learn a valuable Advent lesson: waiting is hard, but patience is holy... and bribing the Baby Jesus is definitely **not** part of the Christmas tradition!

Fr. Mariusz



Online Giving



Parish Website





Our Lady of Guadalupe – Mother of the Americas

On December 12, the Church joyfully celebrates **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, one of the most beloved Marian titles in the world. Her story is a profound reminder of God's closeness, especially to the poor, the vulnerable, and those seeking hope.

In 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a humble Indigenous man, **St. Juan Diego**, on the hill of

Tepeyac near present-day Mexico City. Speaking to him in his native language, she revealed her deep love for all her children and asked that a church be built in that place. As a sign for the bishop, Mary instructed Juan Diego to gather roses—miraculously blooming in winter—inside his cloak. When he opened his tilma, the flowers fell to the ground, revealing the extraordinary image of Our Lady imprinted on the fabric.

That image, still preserved today, portrays Mary as a **tender, humble mother**, clothed with the sun and standing upon the moon. Her features and dress reflect both Indigenous and Spanish cultures, showing her as a mother to all people. Through this miraculous event, millions in the Americas came to embrace the Gospel.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is known as the **Patroness of the Americas**, the **Star of the New Evangelization**, and the **Protector of the Unborn**. Her message continues to inspire: a call to unity, compassion, and trust in God's mercy. She reminds us that, no matter our circumstance, we are seen, loved, and held close by a Mother who never abandons her children.

As we honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, may we place our parish, our families, and our world under her maternal care, praying with confidence the words she spoke to Juan Diego:

“Am I not here, I who am your Mother?”



Yarn Donations

If you have any yarn you are not using, our parishioner Shirley is looking for donations so she can knit more toques for Kids in Ukraine and Christmas Child Shoebox.

Yarn donations can be dropped off at the church for Shirley to pick up. If you have any questions, please call the church office for more information—403-652-2203



CWL Bake Sale

The CWL has a very successful Bake Sale, held on Saturday Dec 6 and the morning of Dec 7, with a total of **\$1,993.35 collected**.

A huge thank you to all who contributed to this yearly event. To the bakers and volunteers- we could not have done this without your help. Many thanks.



ITINERARIO PARA CELEBRAR A LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

ST FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
206 - 9TH AVENUE WEST, HIGH RIVER

12 DE DICIEMBRE

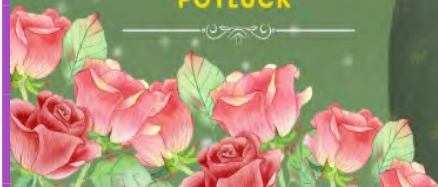
- 8:15 AM - CONFESIONES
- 8:45 AM - ROSARIO
- 9:15 AM - MISA
- 8:15 AM - CONFESSION
- 8:45 AM - ROSARY
- 9:15 AM - MASS

12 AL 14 DE DICIEMBRE

Exposición Pictográfica
VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE
“MÁS ALLÁ DEL MILAGRO”
Images Display
“LADY GUADALUPE
BEYOND THE MIRACLE”

14 DE DICIEMBRE

- 11:00 AM - MISA / MASS
- BENDICIONES DE IMAGENES
- CONVIVENCIA FAMILIAR**
- POTLUCK**



PSALM 146

LORD,



COME AND SAVE US

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YOU
ARE
called
YOU MATTER
YOU BELONG

THIRD SUNDAY OF
Advent

CHRISTMAS

MASSES

SCHEDULE

DEC 24



THE VIGIL MASS

5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER

9:00 PM - VULCAN

MIDNIGHT - HIGH RIVER

DEC 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER

5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER



OFFICE CLOSED
24 DEC. - JAN. 5

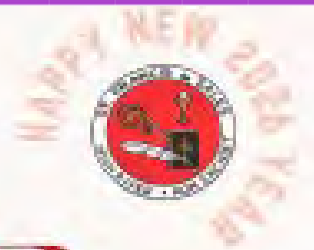
MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Blessings fr. Marins



NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

CELEBRATE THE END OF YEAR AND THE NEW YEAR WITH US

2025

WEDNESDAY - 31 5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER
11:00 PM ADORATION - HIGH RIVER
MIDNIGHT MASS - HIGH RIVER

2026

THUESDAY - 1 9:00 AM - VULCAN
11:00 AM - HIGH RIVER
5:00 PM - HIGH RIVER

HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2026





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."

- Pope Saint John Paul II



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!



THIS WEEK AT SFDS

Sunday, December 14—III SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Vulcan)
11:00 – 12:00 PM – Mass (High River) **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION**
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confessions
5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass

Monday, December 15

8:00 - 9:00 AM – Confession
8:30 – 9:00 AM – Rosary
9:00 – 9:45 AM – Mass
7:00 – 9:00 PM – CWL Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 16—

9:15–10:15 AM – Mass at Parish for NDC School
6:00 – 7:00 PM – Confessions
7:00 – 7:45 PM – Mass

Wednesday, December 17

9:15 - 10:15 AM – Mass at Parish for NDC School
3:30 – 3:15 PM – Mass at Seasons
4:00 – 4:30 PM – Liturgy at the Hospital
6:00–6:30 PM – Mass
6:30–8:00 PM – Penitential Service

Thursday, December 18

8:00 – 9:15 AM – Confession
9:15 - 10:00 AM – Mass
10:00–11:00 AM – Advent Mass at Holy Spirit Academy
10:00 AM – 9:00 PM – Adoration and Benediction
7:00 – 8:30 PM – RCIA

Friday, December 19

8:00 - 9:15 AM – Confession
8:45 – 9:15 AM – Rosary
9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass—Kindergarten
9:00 – 11:30 AM – TOPS Group (East Hall)

Saturday, December 20— IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:45 – 7:00 AM – Confession
7:00 – 7:30 AM – Daily Mass
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confession
5:00 – 6:00 PM – Vigil Mass
6:00–7:00 PM – K of C Meeting

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 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.

*"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

December 1– 31, 2025

December 1	9:00 am	Sam Curzon
December 2	7:00 pm	Jackson Curzon
December 3	9:00 am	Bereavement Mass†
December 4	9:15 am	Adula Albarina †
December 5	9:15 am	Marge Heap & Family †
December 6	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Maria Jennifer A. Marana † Frank Charette †
December 7	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Joseph & Bogumita Andruszkewicz † Richard Duran †
December 8	9:00 am	Magno & Pilang Amores †
December 9	7:00 pm	Rebecca Dudgeon
December 10	9:00 am 4:00 pm—(HR Hospital)	SFDS CWL Sisters Lamberta & Boria Amores †
December 11	9:15 am	Ronnie Amores †
December 12	9:15 am	Sharon McLean
December 13	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Felix & Carmen Amores † Our Parish
December 14	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	St. Andrew's CWL Sisters Juan Carlos Garcia Salas † Tauzon Family
December 15	9:00 am	Brenda Ball †
December 16	7:00 pm	Geral McGuiness †
December 17	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	Felix & Carmen Amores † Nicomedas Cuizon †
December 18	9:15 am	Julian Toro †
December 19	9:15 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
December 20	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Bessie Amores † Bryan Johnson †
December 21	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Fernando Almiran † Carolyn Kuziw †
December 22	9:00 am	Dominador & Angelina Jalosjos †
December 23	7:00 pm	Rochelle Cameron †
December 24	5:00 pm 9:00 pm (Vulcan) Midnight	Our Parish George & Antonina Sztuk † Theresa Fallows †
December 25	11:00 am	Ann Richman
December 26	9:15 am	Brittany Pineo
December 27	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Bobo Christianson † Our Parish
December 28	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Horace & Hazel Delorme † Victor & Ricardo Mejia † Marilyn Gaudreau †
December 29		Harvie Wenger †
December 30		Clint Malinowski †
December 31	5:00 pm 9:00 pm (Vulcan) Midnight	George & Antonina Sztuk † Our Parish Theresa Fallows †



Online or in studio (High River) lessons

Teaching all styles and levels

Guitar, Bass, Ukulele and Mandolin

Call or Text Rob at 403-975-9806



Piano & Theory Lessons
Live Music
Piano Accompaniment

Rhona-Mae Arca
B.A., B.Mgt., A.R.C.T., R.M.T.

2013 Tech Teacher of the Year
(403) 201-6746
musespeakstudio@gmail.com
www.musespeak.com
(in Bridlewood, SW Calgary)



THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE



**DIANNE
MANTEI**
FRANCHISE OWNER

#2, 28-12th Avenue SE
High River, AB T1V 1T2
Office: 403.652.7266
Fax: 403.652.1492
Dianne.Mantei@hrblock.ca

OPEN YEAR-ROUND
HRBLOCK.CA



On-site Chapel, Crematorium & Reception facilities
serving families of southern Alberta since 1929
The Snodgrass Family

301 MACLEOD TRAIL, HIGH RIVER 403-652-2222
www.snodgrassfuneralhomes.com



Craig Snodgrass
Owner / Funeral Director

Lyle Reeves
FUNERALS

Experience The Difference

Traditional Burial Services
Memorial Cremation Services

115 8th Ave. SE - High River, Alberta
www.lylereeves.com
PH 403.652.4242



PIANO LESSONS
THEORY RUDIMENTS

JAY-ARNE ARCA, A.R.C.T.
REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHER
(403) 995-9691
PIANO@TOTHEWIND.COM
WWW.TOTHEWIND.COM

High River Medical Clinic

DR. VALENTINE C. OGOKE, MD., B.Sc.

108B 3RD Avenue, West, High River, AB T1V 1M4
Phone: (403) 652-2880 * Fax: (403) 652-2887

online booking. <http://vcmedicalclinic.ca/>



Lucius Okafor, B Pharm, M.ScPharm
Pharmacist/Owner
Prescribing Pharmacist, Injection Certified, CDE
103 - 3 Ave. SW, High River, AB T1V 1M3
T: 403-652-5608 F: 403-652-5609
highriverpharmacy@gmail.com

DARLENE BEUTLER

Associate

403.333.7333

keyconnection@shaw.ca



www.highriverproperty.com

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Please support these Advertisers, who have supported us.