



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

21 DECEMBER



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
206 - 8th 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

IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT



4th Sunday of Advent



December 21,
2025

Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 7:10-14) Every Advent Sunday this year has opened with Isaiah's words, culminating today in the delightful proclamation to King Ahaz, which Matthew picks up in today's Gospel passage. It is no accident that this great promise is held up to us in a time when our winter days are filled with more darkness than light. Remember that God's promise through Isaiah's words comes exactly at times of fragmentation and decline: the country is threatened by two kingdoms and King Ahaz is ambivalent. Key in the prophecy is the promise of a sign, the birth of a child from the line of David. The meaning of the child's name, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is reassurance that God does not abandon his people, not in the here and now, nor in the life to come.

Second Reading: (Romans 5:1-7) Paul's formal introduction to this letter sounds much like a creed, summarizing all the essentials about Jesus and our faith in him. This proclamation of faith is fully integrated into how Paul regards his own vocation and mission. Paul considers himself set apart to proclaim salvation through Jesus Christ, who was the fulfillment of the prophets, and to bring this Good News to Jews and Gentiles alike.

Gospel: (Matthew 1:18-24) Whereas Luke's infancy narrative features Mary, Matthew's account of the birth of Christ features Joseph. Matthew connects Joseph the betrothed husband of Mary to the Joseph in Genesis (youngest son of Jacob, Genesis chapters 38-50) especially through the occurrence of a dream in which the angel appears. St. Joseph is also "from the line of David." Even though Joseph does not speak, he is a righteous man, embodying all that is holy in the tradition of Israel. Joseph's openness to God's spirit prepared him to listen to a dream, receive a message from God, and act on it. Joseph is challenged to trust without knowing the outcome of events – that is the essence of faith.

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

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and prepare to welcome the New Year, I would like to share a few words from my heart with all of you.

Christmas reminds us that God chose to come into our world quietly and humbly, as a child born in difficult circumstances. In this, many of us can recognize our own lives. As we hear in the Gospel: "For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord" (Luke 2:11).

I know that life is not easy for so many of you. Some are trying to figure out how to put food on the table, others are facing health challenges, loneliness, or difficulties in relationships and within families. These struggles are real, and they are close to my heart.

And yet, again and again, I see something truly beautiful in this parish. I see deep faith. I see perseverance. I see smiles that come even in the midst of hardship. Your trust in God, your kindness toward one another, and your willingness to keep going despite difficulties are a powerful witness of what it means to live the Gospel.

I want you to know how truly grateful I am to be part of this parish community. I consider myself very blessed to walk this journey of faith with you. Your faith strengthens my own, and your example reminds me every day why the Church exists: to bring hope, compassion, and the presence of Christ into our world.

As we enter the New Year, I pray that the Lord will bless you and your families with peace, strength, and hope. May the Child born in Bethlehem fill your homes with His light, comfort your hearts, and guide us all in the year ahead.

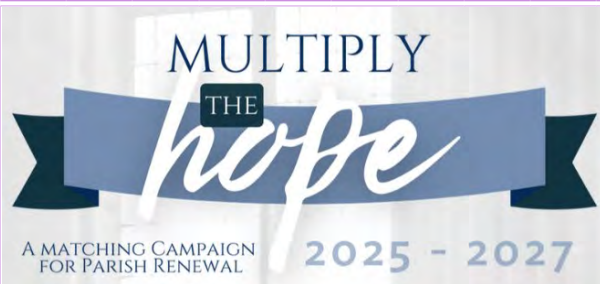
Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and your presence in this parish. Please know that you are always in my prayers.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With gratitude and prayers,

Fr. Mariusz





A Christmas Gift of Hope for Our Parish

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, our parish has received a wonderful and hopeful gift. The Diocese of Calgary has given **approval in principle** for two important projects proposed by the Parish Pastoral and Financial Councils of **St. Francis de Sales Parish** as part of the *Jubilee of Hope Financial Campaign*.

This positive response is an encouragement and a sign of trust in our parish community. While much work still lies ahead, this approval allows us to move forward with planning and fundraising in the months to come.

The first proposed project is the **expansion and paving of our existing parking lot**. Anyone who attends Sunday Mass or large parish events knows how limited our parking can be. This project would increase parking capacity by up to 50%, improving safety, accessibility, and hospitality for parishioners and visitors alike.

The second project looks to the long-term pastoral life of our parish: the **re-establishment of the rectory next to the church**, as it was before the 2013 flood. This would provide a suitable home for our priest and occasional guests, strengthen the daily presence of pastoral ministry at the church, and allow the current rectory to be used as a source of rental income for the parish.

The anticipated **timeframe for these projects is up to three years**, depending on the success of our fundraising efforts. After Christmas, we will organize a **special parish meeting** to present these plans in greater detail, explain the financial strategy, and answer questions from the parish community.

The Diocese has indicated that our parish may be eligible for matching funds of up to **\$88,520**, which is significant support. Parish fundraising is anticipated to begin in early 2026.

This moment marks the beginning of what will be the “heavy lifting” — careful planning, fundraising, and continued cooperation. At the same time, it is also an invitation. **If there are parishioners who would like to be actively involved in these projects — through planning, organizing, fundraising, or professional expertise — please speak with Fr. Mariusz.** Your time, skills, and commitment would be greatly appreciated.

We will continue to **keep the parish informed through the weekly bulletin and announcements at Mass** as the projects move forward.

At Christmas, we celebrate Emmanuel, *God with us* — and this encouragement from the Diocese reminds us that we are not walking this journey alone.

Thank you to all parishioners for your faith, generosity, and ongoing support.

Fr. Mariusz Sztuk



SFDS CWL Food Drive For The High River Food Bank



A huge thank you to all those who graciously donated nonperishable food items to our local High River Food Bank. Last year (2024) the weight of food brought in was 1052 pounds. This year the weight was 1172 pounds. An increase of 120 pounds. The CWL is so grateful for all that was received. Many individuals and families will be helped this Christmas Season and a result of your generous donations.

Pictured here: Food Bank Representative, CWL Treasurer Bae Taylor, Cliff Taylor, Past President Susan Horn and Don Horn. Missing from photo is Dennis Ewchuk.

Regards

Don & Susan Horn



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



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

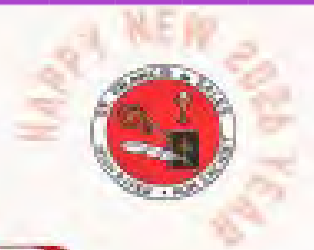
MERRY CHRISTMAS

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





THIS WEEK AT SFDS



Sunday, December 21—IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Vulcan)
 11:00 – 12:00 PM – Mass (High River)
 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confessions
 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass

Monday, December 22

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
 8:30 – 9:00 AM – Rosary
 9:00 – 9:45 AM – Mass

Tuesday, December 23

6:00 – 7:00 PM – Confessions
 7:00 – 7:45 PM – Mass

Wednesday, December 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 – 6:30 PM – Christmas Eve Mass (High River)
 9:00 – 10:00 PM – Christmas Eve Mass (Vulcan)
 Midnight – Christmas Mass

Thursday, December 25—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

11:00 – 12:00 AM – Christmas Mass (High River)
 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Christmas Mass (High River)

Friday, December 26—ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

8:00 – 9:15 AM – Confession
 8:45 – 9:15 AM – Rosary
 9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass

Saturday, December 27—ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

6:45 – 7:00 AM – Confession
 9:00 – 9:30 AM – Daily Mass
 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confession
 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Vigil Mass (The Holy Family)

Sunday, December 28—THE HOLY FAMILY

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Vulcan)
 11:00 – 12:00 PM – Mass (High River)
 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confessions
 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass

Monday, December 29—FIFTH DAY OF THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
 8:30 – 9:00 AM – Rosary
 9:00 – 9:45 AM – Mass

Tuesday, December 30—SIXTH DAY OF THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

6:00 – 7:00 PM – Confessions
 7:00 – 7:45 PM – Mass

Wednesday, December 31—SEVENTH DAY OF THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass (High River)
 11:00 – 12:00 PM – Adoration
 Midnight – Mass (High River) - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, January 1—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Vulcan)
 11:00 – 12:00 AM – Mass (High River)
 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confessions
 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass (High River)

Friday, January 2—ST. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN

8:00 – 9:15 AM – Confession
 8:45 – 9:15 AM – Rosary
 9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass

Saturday, January 3—VIGIL OF THE EPIPHANY

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
 9:00 – 9:30 AM – Daily Mass
 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confession
 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 4—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Vulcan)
 11:00 – 12:00 PM – Mass (High River)
 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confessions
 5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass

Online Giving



Parish Website



Christmas Season 2025–2026: Key Celebrations



- **December 24 – Christmas Eve:** Evening Masses to welcome the birth of Jesus, including the traditional Midnight Mass. Come and join in the joyful celebration!
- **December 25 – Christmas Day:** Celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, rejoicing in Christ's birth with family and liturgy. All are welcome to the festive Masses.
- **December 26 – St. Stephen, the First Martyr:** Honoring the courage and faith of the first Christian martyr. Attend Mass to remember his witness.
- **December 27 – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist:** Remembering the beloved disciple and evangelist. Celebrate with us in prayer.
- **December 28 – Holy Family:** Celebrating Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model for Christian families. Bring your family to the Mass for blessings.
- **January 1 – Mary, Mother of God:** Solemnity honoring Mary and praying for peace in the world. Start the New Year with prayer and Mass.
- **January 4 – Epiphany of the Lord:** Celebrating the visit of the Magi and Christ's revelation to all nations. Come to Mass and share the joy of Christ's light!

Let us celebrate together and experience the joy, hope, and peace of Christ this holy season!



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

to the wind
MUSIC STUDIO
serving the foothills & area

**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.