



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

AUGUST 2025



On the day I called, O Lord, you answered me.

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: Fr-Marius@francisdesaleshighriver.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

CONFESSIONS

Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



July 27,
2025

Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Genesis 18:20-32) God himself conducts a personal inspection of the city (18:21)—or at least he intends to. Abraham now stands before the Lord. Abraham is convinced that the judge of all the earth will do right. He has no doubts about the integrity and consistency of God. Therefore he speaks plainly with God.

Second Reading: (Colossians 2:12-14) Paul declares that the Colossian Gentiles and Jews are made alive and have their sins forgiven through Christ. Paul uses past-tense verbs to describe both their burial in baptism and their having been raised with Christ. The significance of the past tense here is to emphasize the reality of their new life in Christ, the power of the resurrection that lives in them through Christ.

Gospel: (Luke 11:1-13) Jesus teaches his disciples how to communicate with the Father through prayer. Instruction about prayer (11:1-4) is followed by a short parable on prayer (11:5-8) and an exhortation to pray (11:9-13). Followers of Jesus should be loving neighbors to people in need, should not allow service to God to eclipse our time with God, and should cultivate our relationship with God through prayer.



Dear Parishioners!

I would like to warmly welcome **Fr. Larry Bagnal**, who will be covering for me throughout the month of **August**. Fr. Larry is always happy to come and serve in our parish, and I am truly grateful for his willingness to help.

As you may know, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find priests to assist with summer replacements, so I am especially thankful to Fr. Larry for his generosity.

All Masses will continue as usual, with just **one exception—there will be no Mass on July 28, as well as no Masses on Mondays during August.**

Let us keep Fr. Larry in our prayers and welcome him with kindness.

With blessings,
Fr. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS



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**

Humor:

“And on the Eighth Day... He Rode a Harley”

Every priest needs a break. Even the good Lord rested on the seventh day. But when Father Mike finally hung up his stole, tucked away his homilies, and turned off his phone (after three tries—because he still doesn’t know how to use it properly), he didn’t head for a beach or a silent retreat.

Nope. Father Mike grabbed his helmet, slipped into his leathers—yes, *leathers*, stitched tastefully over his clerical collar—and roared off into the sunset on his beloved Harley Davidson, affectionately named “St. Throttle.”

Parishioners stared as he rolled out of the rectory driveway. One little boy whispered, “Is he going to exorcise the demons out of the highway?” His grandma, clutching her rosary, just crossed herself and said, “Better a Harley than a hearse.”

He wasn’t just going *on* vacation—he was going *in style*.

The first stop? A roadside diner called “Holy Smokes BBQ.” He parked between two bikers named Snake and Chainsaw. They nodded respectfully at his collar, until he beat them both at arm wrestling and then blessed their brisket.

He continued his pilgrimage to various shrines, collecting not just grace, but an impressive collection of bugs on his windshield (some of which, he claims, look like St. Francis if you squint hard enough).

One evening, at a campsite under the stars, someone asked, “Father, do you ever feel guilty about such a wild ride?”

He grinned, toasted a marshmallow over the campfire, and replied, “My son, I spend 11 months a year hearing confessions. This month, I ride fast, pray hard, and confess later.”

By the end of his trip, Father Mike had become a legend among bikers and believers alike. Rumor has it the Pope considered giving him the honorary title of “Vicar of Vroom.”

And so, as the summer came to a close, he returned to his parish, suntanned, bug-splattered, and spiritually renewed. And during his first Sunday homily, he looked out at the congregation and said, “Today’s reading is from the Book of Revelation... which, coincidentally, is *also* what it feels like doing 120 down Highway 3.”

Amen. And pass the helmet.





Motorcycle Pilgrimage of Hope – A Journey with Blessed Francis Jordan and Blessed Mary of the Apostles

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is with great joy that I invite you to join me and a group of friends as we set out on a unique pilgrimage—traveling by motorcycle to visit various shrines and churches across Canada and the United States. This pilgrimage will not only be a physical journey but also a spiritual adventure, inspired by the lives of the Saints.. In my case the life of **Blessed Francis Jordan** and **Blessed Mary of the Apostles**, the founders of the Salvatorian family.

Why This Pilgrimage?

The year **2025 has been declared a Jubilee Year**, dedicated to the theme of **hope**. In the Christian tradition, pilgrimage is a privileged way of praying during such a year. A pilgrimage represents stepping out of everyday life to meet God more deeply—on the road, in the silence of the journey, in the encounter with sacred places, and in the communion of fellow travelers.

That is why we have decided to have this special **Motorcycle Pilgrimage of Hope**, visiting **important churches and shrines connected to our spirit**. These places will remind us of our call to make the Savior known to all people, everywhere and by all ways and means.

How Will It Work?

Each stop will follow a simple structure:

- **Learn about the place** – its history, significance, and connection to Salvatorian spirituality.
- **Reflect on the journey** – using selected key words such as *logo, courage, clothing, threshold* to guide our meditation.
- **Pray for hope and vocation** – using the writings of Blessed Francis Jordan and Blessed Mary of the Apostles as inspiration.
- **Offer intentions** – before setting out for the next destination, we will pause for prayer, whether the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or another devotion.

The main intention of this pilgrimage is to **discover, deepen, and strengthen our vocation**—to uncover the best version of ourselves, which is God's version of us. Traveling in the company of saints and fellow pilgrims will help us reflect on this call.

How You Can Join Us

Even if you cannot ride with us, you can still participate spiritually. We invite you to **send us your prayer intentions**, and we will carry them with us to each shrine we visit. You can send your intentions to:

dzambel@me.com

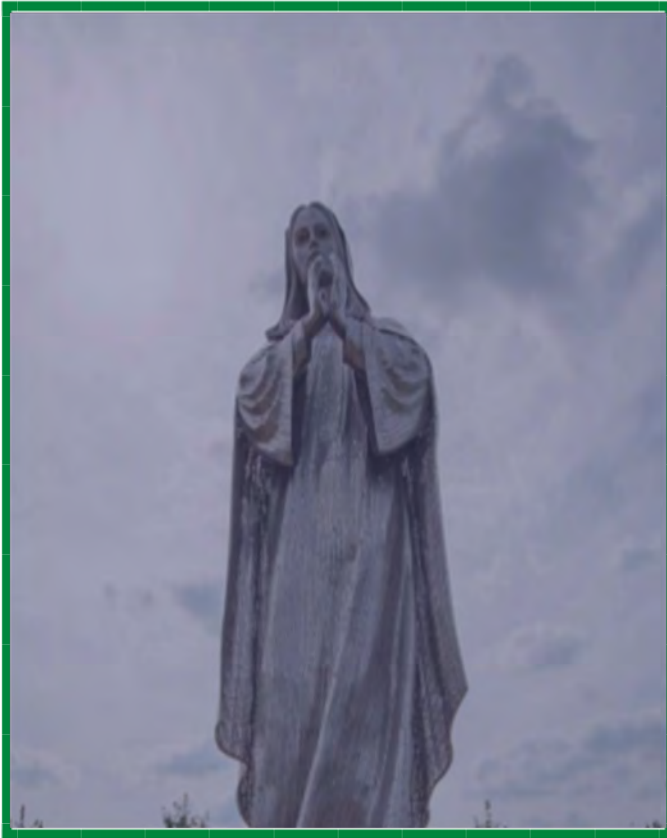
We will remember you in our prayers at every stop.

A Word of Thanks

I thank God for this opportunity and for all those who helped create this project. Special thanks go to the friends who contributed their time. Special Thanks to [God's Squad Canada](#)

So, **start the engines, open our hearts, and let's ride into the Jubilee Year with hope!**

Fr. Marius Sztuk, SDS



The Month of August in the Catholic Church

A Time of Marian Devotion and Reflection on Holiness

Dear Parishioners,

The month of **August** is a time of special grace in the life of the Catholic Church. It is traditionally dedicated to the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**, calling us to deepen our devotion to Our Lady and to reflect on the purity of her heart and her love for God and humanity.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Mary's Immaculate Heart represents her perfect love, her steadfast faith, and her complete openness to the will of God. Devotion to her heart encourages us to imitate her virtues: humility, compassion, prayerfulness, and trust in Divine Providence.

The Solemnity of the Assumption – August 15

At the center of August's Marian focus is the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** on **August 15**. On this day, we celebrate Mary being taken up into heaven, body and soul. The Assumption is not only a celebration of Mary's glorification but also a sign of hope for all believers. It reminds us that eternal life with God is our true home.

“The Assumption of Mary is a call to live with our eyes fixed on heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father and where Mary already shares in His glory.”

— Pope Benedict XVI

Other Saints and Feasts of August

August also highlights the lives of several saints who guide and inspire us in our faith journey:

- **August 1** – St. Alphonsus Liguori
- **August 8** – St. Dominic
- **August 11** – St. Clare of Assisi
- **August 14** – St. Maximilian Kolbe
- **August 15** – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **August 20** – St. Bernard of Clairvaux
- **August 27** – St. Monica
- **August 28** – St. Augustine
- **August 29** – The Passion of St. John the Baptist

A Time for Spiritual Renewal

As summer begins to draw to a close, August offers us a spiritual invitation: To renew our prayer life, to imitate the example of the saints, and to place our trust in the loving heart of Mary. Let us use this month to grow closer to God and to prepare our hearts for the journey ahead.

**“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”
(Luke 1:46-47)**





**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.***

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be open **9:00 am—12:00 pm**
to the public for **July & August**

**If you are in need of a priest, please
call the office at 403-652-2203.**



Thank You for a Wonderful Parish Potluck!

We would like to sincerely **thank everyone who joined and contributed to our Parish Potluck Dinner** last Sunday after Mass.

A special word of gratitude goes to our Filipino community, who organized the event with great care and generosity. The food was delicious, and the atmosphere was warm and joyful.

Thank you to all who brought dishes, helped with setup and cleanup, and simply came to share in the fellowship. Events like this remind us how important it is to come together as a parish family, to share our time, our talents, and our cultures.

Let’s continue to create more moments like this—it’s good for our hearts and for the life of our parish!

Fr. Marius

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY

JULY 27



"BLESSED ARE
THOSE WHO
HAVE NOT
LOST HOPE"

SIR 14:2



You're Invited!

30th Anniversary of Ordination to the
Priesthood for

Fr. Philip Van Tinh Le

Please join us in celebrating
Fr. Philip's 30 years of faithful service
to the Church and the community.

17 Saturday, August 2, 2025

5:00PM Mass at St. Augustine's Parish, Taber

Potluck Supper to Follow at 6:00 PM

St. Augustine's Parish Hall

Please bring a dish (Main Dish, Dessert, Salad and
Appetizer) to share as we gather in fellowship and
gratitude. **A sign-up sheet is available at the
entrance of the church or call the parish office at
(403) 223-2226.**

Let us come together to honor Fr. Philip's
dedication, reflect on his journey, and share in this
joyful milestone.

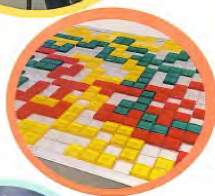
"We give thanks to God always for you..."
— 1 Thessalonians 1:2

SFDS GAME NIGHT

**TRY A GAME,
TEACH A GAME!**

Bring your fave
boardgames, cardgames,
and snacks for a fun time
of gaming and fellowship.

**Children under 13 must be
accompanied by a parent
or guardian.**



6:00 PM

JULY 25, 2025

AUGUST 29, 2025

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

SFDS HALL





August 1– 31, 2025

August 1	9:15 am	Roy McLean †
August 2	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Fr. Malcom D'Souza Diane Curzon
August 3	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Jensen Family
August 4	*****	No Mass
August 5	7:00 pm	Theresa Fallows †
August 6	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass
August 7	9:15 am	Antony Hanulik †
August 8	9:15 am	Tim McLean †
August 9	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Joaquim D'Sa † Our Parish
August 10	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	George & Antonina Sztuk † Xavier Mejia †
August 11	*****	No Mass
August 12	7:00 pm	Jesse Walton †
August 13	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Don Baldwin SFDS CWL Sisters
August 14	9:15 am	John Dawson †
August 15	9:15 am	Urban D'Souza †
August 16	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Anthony Hanulik † Bill Ward †
August 17	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Our Parish Leonard Hickey †
August 18	*****	No Mass
August 19	7:00 pm	George & Antonina Sztuk †
August 20	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	Joseph Thien Elaine Zubot
August 21	9:15 am	Rena Morrison
August 22	9:15 am	Eileen Harrop †
August 23	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Johnnie Des Rocher Our Parish
August 24	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Alan Fath † John Fallows
August 25	*****	No Mass
August 26	7:00 pm	Deacon Larry Driver
August 27	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Allan Fath † Mark MacDonald
August 28	9:15 am	Robert Tyminski †
August 29	9:15 am	Robert Tyminski †
August 30	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Deacon Larry & Therese Grazyn Sak†
August 31	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am	Justin Veilleux † Our Parish



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



Your Alberta Broker

Leeah Holle
Mortgage Broker

• Your Alberta Broker.com
• LeeahHolle@DominionLending.ca
• 403-652-8930
Dominion Lending Centres Mortgage Force
Each office independently owned & operated

DOMINION LENDING CENTRES

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)



Piano & Theory Lessons
Live Music
Piano Accompaniment

to the wind
MUSIC STUDIO
serving the foothills & area

PIANO LESSONS
THEORY RUDIMENTS

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

**THIS SPACE IS
AVAILABLE**

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/>

**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

Lyle Reeves
FUNERALS

Experience The Difference

Traditional Burial Services
Memorial Cremation Services



Craig Snodgrass
Owner / Funeral Director

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

HIGH RIVER PHARMACY
Rx PharmaChoice *Alive Life*

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 Boulter
REAL BROKER, REAL ESTATE AGENT



darlene@BlueFlamingoRealEstate.com
highriverproperty.com
@highriverproperty
403.333.7333



REAL ESTATE GROUP

Please support these Advertisers, who have supported us.