



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

30 NOVEMBER



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

Advent

Keep awake, you must be ready

Office

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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

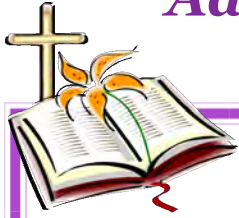
CONFESSIONS

Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

I SUNDAY OF ADVENT



1st Sunday of Advent



November 30,
2025

Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 2: 1-5) In the form of a majestic, hope-filled poem, Isaiah's vision for the future opens this new liturgical season. The prophet proclaimed these words to the people of Israel in a time of hopelessness and despair, and the prophet's words have long been part of the Advent season that opens the new church year. New beginnings are a great time to remind us of God's vision for all the earth: with God's authority, there is no place for war or training for war. In God's world all opposites are reconciled and harmonized.

Second Reading: (Romans 13:11-14) Paul contrasts darkness and light, sleeping and awakening, putting on and taking off garments. These action words indicate that the waiting for *kairos* – or God's appointed time – is an active rather than a passive state. The active component manifests itself in living "honourably," according to Paul. His last line, putting on Christ, refers to the paschal dimension of our baptism when we died and rose with Christ.

Gospel: (Matthew 24: 37-44) Jesus' call to keep awake is a stark reminder that Advent/ Christmas, are not simply seasons of pregnancy and a little baby in swaddling clothes. Beginnings are always tied up with endings, and the "end of time" is prefigured in the birth of God's Son. Following on the heels of the end-time readings in November ending the church year, these readings want to make sure that we do not slack off and become complacent. Although the arbitrariness of who will be taken and who will be left feels disconcerting, the Christian imperative to live "honourably" as Paul summons us, will make these words both consolation and warning. If we are living as we should, it becomes irrelevant that we "do not know the day or hour".

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

A Light for Advent

When Father Mark announced at Mass that Advent was beginning, little Tommy got very excited. He loved the Advent wreath—especially the candles. After Mass he tugged on his mother's coat and whispered loudly (as only children can):

"Mom, this year I'm going to help Advent go FASTER."

"How exactly?" she asked.

"I'll light ALL the candles today so we can get to Christmas sooner!"

Father Mark, who overheard, nearly dropped his hymnal. "Oh no you don't," he said, smiling. "If we light them all at once, Advent will disappear—and then I'll have no time to finish my homilies!"

Tommy thought about this very seriously. "Well... how many homilies do you still have to write?"

"Four," Father Mark answered.

Tommy sighed deeply. "Okay... we'll do it your way."

So the candles stayed in proper order, Advent moved along at its gentle pace, and Father Mark finished all four homilies—although rumor has it that Tommy checked the wreath every Sunday to make sure no one was trying to speed things up.

And that, dear parishioners, is why patience is still a virtue... especially during Advent.



**Advent 2025 –
Reconciliation
Services -
Crowsnest
Pass Deanery**

Immaculate Conception – Stand Off
December 10 – 6:00 PM

St. Francis de Sales Parish – High River
December 17 – 6:30 PM

Holy Cross Parish – Fort Macleod
December 3 – 7:00 PM

St. Michael – Pincher Creek
December 12 – 6:00 PM

St. James Parish – Okotoks
December 11 – 6:30 PM

Holy Trinity Parish – Blairmore
December 11 – 7:00 PM

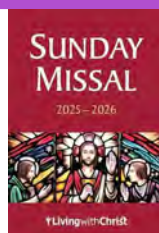
Christ the King Parish – Claresholm
December 10 – 7:00 PM

St. Paul Parish – Brocket
4:00 PM (date not provided yet)



Mass Time Change

The mass time for **Dec. 3** and **Dec. 10** has been changed to **9:00 am**, as Fr. Mariusz will be helping other parishes with their Reconciliation Service.



2026 Missals

The **Sunday Missals** are now available in the church hall.

A donation is greatly appreciated.



Online Giving



Parish Website





The results of the K of C Council 9521 Grey Cup Pools:

Thanks to such great support from SFDS, we were able to sell two sheets of Grey Cup Squares (Orange and Green) for this year's Grey Cup held on November 16, 2025. With the profit from this pool, we are supporting the Sisters of the Precious Blood Convent in Calgary.

POOL WINNERS:

ORANGE POOL

Rick Amatto	\$25.00	1st Quarter Orange Pool
Joe Yuzik	\$25.00	3rd Quarter Score Orange Pool
Linda George	\$50.00	Reverse Final Orange Pool
Alice Sanregret	\$150.00	Half time and Final Score Orange Pool

GREEN POOL

Joyce Barton	\$75.00	1st Quarter and Reverse Final GP
Deacon Larry Driver	\$25.00	3rd Quarter Score Green Pool
Dale Howard	\$150.00	Half time and Final Score GP

Thank you to all of you for your support.

Gerry McCallum
K of C 9521 Grand Knight



CWL Christmas Party 2025



Monday December 15, 2025 at the Church Hall at **5:00pm**. Cost is **\$25.00 per person**. Tickets can be purchased after masses Sunday November 30 and December 7.

Deadline to pay is December 8th.

You can pay cash, cheque or e-transfer to sfscwl25@gmail.com and state Christmas dinner. If you are on a special diet please let us know, our caterer is willing to accommodate but we need to



CWL Food Drive For The High River Food Bank



Beginning Saturday, **November 15th, 2025**, the collection of non perishable food items for the High River Food Bank will begin.

This Food Drive will continue until **Wednesday, December 10th** when the food items will be delivered to the Food Bank. Non perishable food items can be dropped off anytime in the church hall and placed on the table with the red table cloths.

***"Whatsoever You Do To The Least Of
My Brothers , That You Do Unto Me"***
Matthew 25:40



CWL Christmas Bake Sale



It's that time of year once again when St. Francis de Sales CWL will be having their annual Christmas Bake Sale.

Due to a church scheduling conflict the CWL Christmas Bake Sale has been moved from Saturday, November 29th to **Saturday December 6th beginning at 1:00 - 4:30 pm.**

A memo to all CWL Members has been sent out reminding those of this change.

All those who are making baked goods for this event, please have them to the church hall Dec. 6th by 10:00 am to be priced

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, a sweet or two, have a visit with a friend and purchase Christmas baking.

We look forward to seeing many of you and this wonderful Christmas event. Bring a friend!
"Merry Christmas"!



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



Rorate Masses: An Ancient Advent Tradition of Light and Hope

As we journey through the season of Advent, our parish once again embraces one of the most beautiful and ancient liturgical traditions of the Church: the **Rorate Mass**. These candlelit dawn Masses invite us into the quiet expectation that marked the Blessed Virgin Mary's waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

The name *Rorate* comes from the Latin chant *Rorate caeli desuper*—"Drop down dew from above, O heavens"—a plea for God's mercy and for the long-awaited Savior. This prophetic verse from Isaiah reflects a world longing for light, healing, and redemption. Traditionally celebrated in honor of Mary, the Rorate Mass places her at the heart of Advent: the one who carried the Light of the World in her womb.

A Brief History of the Rorate Mass

The origins of the Rorate Mass date back to the Middle Ages, especially in German-speaking and Slavic countries, where the faithful would gather before dawn with only candlelight illuminating the church. In those dark morning hours, the symbolism was powerful—just as the sun slowly rises, so too does Christ, the Light, enter a world still overshadowed by darkness.

These early morning liturgies were also a practical expression of devotion: people would attend Mass before beginning their day's work. Over time, the tradition spread throughout Europe, becoming beloved especially among families and rural communities. The tender beauty of entering a dark church, praying with Mary, and watching the first rays of sunlight break through the windows turned the Rorate Mass into a cherished Advent custom.

Today, the Church continues this tradition as a way to experience Advent with intentionality, silence, and hope. The candlelit atmosphere gently invites the faithful to slow down and prepare their hearts for the approaching joy of Christmas.

Rorate Masses in Our Parish

We warmly invite you to participate in this beautiful Advent devotion. Our parish will celebrate Rorate Masses on:

- **Saturday, December 6 at 7:00 AM**
- **Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 AM**
- **Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 AM**

Come with your candles, your prayers, and your hopes. May these quiet dawn moments help us welcome Christ—the Light who shines in the darkness and whom the darkness cannot overcome.



Advent:

A Season of Hope and Renewal

As we begin the holy season of Advent, the Church invites us into a time of watchfulness, reflection, and joyful expectation for the coming of Christ.

In the spirit of the Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis last year and set to conclude this December, our Diocese is launching a matching financial campaign for parishes called, **Multiply the Hope**.

Once our parish has fulfilled all of its financial obligations for the year, every dollar contributed **to reduce our parish loan** (if your parish has a loan) / **to strengthen our repairs and maintenance fund** (if your parish does not have a loan) will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to our parish goal.

Even after the Jubilee year concludes on December 28 this year, the Diocese has extended this campaign to the end of 2027, giving us additional time to reach our parish goal.

Our goal for this matching program is **\$88,520.00**. This means that every contribution toward this goal has twice the impact, allowing our parish to move forward with greater freedom in strengthening the renewal priorities. As we enter this Advent season, I invite you to pray, to reflect, and to respond generously. Together, let us prepare a strong, welcoming parish home for all who seek Christ. May this season of expectation fill us with hope, and may God complete the good work He has begun in us.

Advent



Advent is a season of wonder, openness, and new beginnings.

Advent is decided by the Sunday closest to the 30th of November, and this year it is actually falls on the 30th. This Sunday marks the beginning of our Advent journey that spans twenty-five days ending on Christmas Eve. It is a joyful journey of expectation that has two aspects, the preparation for the remembrance of the Incarnation of CHRIST that is celebrated during the Christmas season, and it looks

forward to Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Our current Advent season was fixed by Gregory the Great, he established the four-week cycle and also composed seasonal prayers and antiphons, along with arranging the Mass and Office lectionary. The first two Sundays focus on the Christ's second Coming, the last two on the Incarnation. It is also the start of our Liturgical year, Year "A", Matthew becomes the dominant gospel for our Sunday readings

Advent is the time when we are coming to the end of the darkness, and our days begin to get longer bringing more light.

There are many sacramentals that are prominent during Advent. Advent wreaths with three purple candles and a pink one, each candle presents a focus for the coming week the first purple candle is "Hope", the second "Peace", the third week (known as Gaudete Sunday) we light the Pink candle "joy" which signifies joy during the Advent season. It also marks the middle of the season of Advent. The fourth candle is "Hope". Each candle reflects the gifts that Jesus brings

We see nativity creches being displayed, lights, Christmas trees decorated with lights, the green signifies Eternal Life, Jesse Trees – The rise and fall of the Israeli nation and their waiting for the Messiah

Fr. Mariusz has introduced us to an old mass, The Rorate Mass

In the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite, this Mass is celebrated very early in the morning on all Saturdays. It is a very spiritual experience.

The Mass is held in the early morning before sunrise, so it is illuminated only by candlelight. As the Mass progresses, the church gradually becomes brighter, just as our faith is illumined by Christ. We are called by the readings and prayers of the Mass to open the gates of our hearts as individuals and of our societies as nations to let Christ the King enter in as we hear of the prophecy of the Virgin who would bear a Son called Emmanuel. It invites us to quiet our minds and hearts as we prepare to welcome our Savior on Christmas. Beginning the Mass in darkness and having the church gradually become brighter as daylight approaches allows us to contemplate the world in darkness before the coming of Christ and then the change as the Light enters the world and brings joy and salvation to His people.

We honor Mary in a special way with this Mass since She is the one who God chose to set apart from all women in order to be worthy to bear Jesus Christ. She is full of grace and immaculate, completely without sin. We look to Her during Advent to help us prepare to welcome Christ because She welcomed Him first. She teaches us how to pray and be open to hearing the voice of Jesus and how to make room for Him in our lives. During the Rorate Mass, we ask for Her intercession to help us open up our minds and hearts to welcome Christ just as She did.

The traditions that we have in the Catholic faith are ones that always are there to help us draw closer to Jesus and Our Lady. The Rorate Mass is another beautiful one that draws our attention to waiting in silence and hope during this season of Advent and that highlights Our Lady's special role in our salvation history. We honor Her and we ask Her to draw us closer to Her Son through Her prayers and the example that She set for us. O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Blessings,
Deacon Larry



Diocesan Advent Renewal Retreat - December 13

We are pleased to share the details of the upcoming Diocesan Advent Renewal Retreat. Please gather in your parish for a wonderful,

streamed, but interactive retreat to fill up your souls in preparation for the birth of Christ.

Advent Listening: How the Word Forms Hearts for Discipleship and Mission with Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J.

• When: **Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm - livestreamed.**

Location: St. Francis The Sales Church - High River

AGENDA

- 9:45 am: Welcome and Renewal Video
- 9:48 am: Lectio Divina led by Ryan Schmidt
- **9:58 am: Introduction by Bishop McGrattan**
- **10 am: Reflection 1 (Archbishop Prendergast)**
- 10:30 am: Conversation in the Spirit Parish Small Groups
- **11:00 am: Reflection 2 (Archbishop Prendergast)**
- 11:30 am: Conversation in the Spirit Parish Small Groups
- **Noon: Q&A with Archbishop Prendergast**
- 12:30 pm: Blessing



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, November 30—1ST 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 1—ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
8:30 – 9:00 AM – Rosary
9:00 – 9:45 AM – Mass
7:00—9:00 PM – High River Pro Life Meeting (at the Medicine Tree Manor)

Tuesday, December 2

10:00—11:00 AM—Advent Mass at Holy Spirit Academy
6:00 – 7:00 PM – Confessions
7:00 – 7:45 PM – Mass
7:45—8:30 PM— Finance Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 3

9:00 – 9:30 AM – Mass
1:30 – 2:00 PM – Mass at NDC School
3:30 – 3:15 PM – Liturgy at Seasons
4:00 – 4:30 PM – Liturgy at Hospital
6:30 – 8:00 PM— Executive Meeting
7:00—8:30 PM— Bible Study

Thursday, December 4—ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

8:00 – 9:15 AM – Confession
9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass
10:00 – 9:00 PM – Adoration and Benediction
7:00 – 8:30 PM – RCIA

Friday, December 5

8:00—8:30 AM— Staff Mass at Holy Spirit Academy
8:45 – 9:15 AM – Confession
8:45 – 9:15 AM – Rosary
9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Grade 1)
9:00 – 11:30 AM – TOPS Group (East Hall)

Saturday, December 6— 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ST. NICHOLAS

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
8:30 – 9:00 AM – Rosary
9:00 – 9:30 AM – Daily Mass
1:00— 4:30 PM – CWL Bake Sale
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confession
5:00 – 6:00 PM – Vigil Mass

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	9:00 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	9:00 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	9:00 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 †



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