



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

18 OCTOBER 2026



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Pastoral Care Team

Office

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Music Coordinator: Donna Abramson

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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

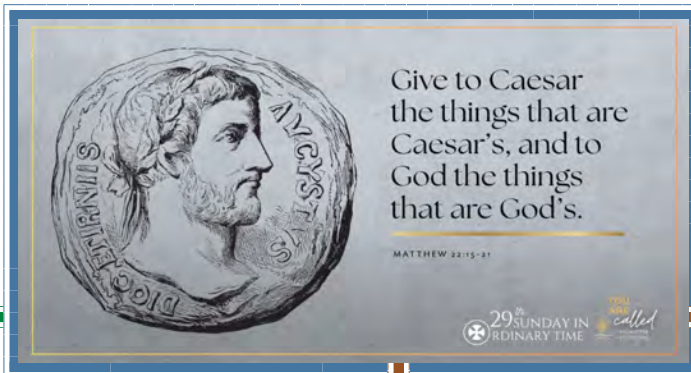
Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

XXIX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 18, 2026



Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Isaiah 45:1,4-16) King Cyrus was a tolerant Persian emperor who sent the exiled people back to Jerusalem and authorized the rebuilding of the temple. Therefore, Isaiah acclaims Cyrus as a kind of messiah, an anointed king. Cyrus does not worship the God of Israel, but was certainly God's instrument

Second Reading: (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5ab) Thessalonica had been an important seaport since its founding some 300 years before Christ. It is located on the great Roman road that crossed the Balkans. Paul arrived there in answer to an invitation given to him by a vision. A large Jewish community was established in Thessalonica, but it was the Gentiles who welcomed Paul's preaching. Paul became embroiled in controversy in the synagogue and was forced to leave. Paul sent Timothy back to see how those who accepted the gospel were doing, and Timothy's report is included farther on in this letter (3:18). The rest of the first letter to the Thessalonians records Paul's reaction to the good news that Timothy brought, and addresses some problems that the new converts had, concerning part of Paul's preaching. It is this that led Paul to write a letter and set the style for all the letters he would come to write. This is the first letter Paul wrote (or at least the first that has been preserved) and the earliest writing in the whole of the New Testament.

Gospel: (Matthew 22:15-21) The Roman Empire in Christ's time was deemed to include the entire civilized world. Some welcomed Rome's rule, others seethed with resentment. The Roman leader Pompey captured Jerusalem in 63 BC and levied an excessive tax. The taxes were a constant and painful reminder of the people's subjugation. Local individuals were hired by the Roman officials and made their living by collecting taxes from other Jews. Therefore, these tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the enemy. The coin bore the profile of the Emperor Tiberius. Around the edge it read: "Tiberius Caesar, Son of the Divine Augustus." Jesus' reply was like saying: "Well if this is Caesar's face and name on the coin, it must belong to him. You better give it back to him."

For more information about this reflection go to <https://rcdos.ca/our-faith/growing-in-your-catholic-faith/faith-resources/>

A Priest's Visit: A Little Prayer and a Lot of Questions!

When a priest visits the sick, he usually comes armed with three things: the Eucharist, a prayer book, and a smile. Sometimes, he also brings a fourth thing — a reminder that he is not a doctor!

A visit usually begins with, "Father, I'm doing much better!" followed by a detailed report of every ache, pain, medication, medical appointment, and mysterious symptom since 19.... By the end, the priest has learned enough to write a medical textbook — although he still wouldn't know which pill to take!

But jokes aside, visiting the sick is a beautiful part of priestly ministry. Sometimes people need the Eucharist, sometimes a prayer, and sometimes simply someone who will sit down, listen, and remind them that they are not forgotten.

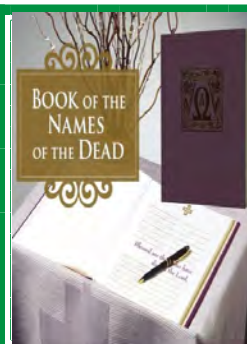
Fr. Marius Sztuk, SDS



Month of November

If you would like your loved ones name in the "Book of the Names of the Dead", please sign the book at the back of the church or call Nancy in the church office, at 403-652-2203 or email her at secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com

Deadline is October 31, 2026



NOVEMBER 2, 2026 ALL SOULS' DAY

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Candle Light Service for All Souls

Our Candle Mass celebration will take place on **Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 pm**. This special Mass is dedicated to all the deceased from our parish and our families and friends. During the service, we will remember our departed loved ones through prayer and by lighting candles.

If you have a family member or friend who passed away in the past year (**November 2025 to present**) please let Nancy know and they will be added to the Candle Light Service. If their funeral was not here, **please bring in a picture**, with the details of **name, date of birth and date of death**.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy in the parish office at 403-652-2203 or email at secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com





Pastoral Care – The Ministry of Presence, Faith, and Hope

This week, we celebrate **Pastoral Care Week**, an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for those who bring Christ's love to people who are sick, lonely, suffering, or unable to participate fully in the life of our parish community.

At St. Francis de Sales Parish in High River, Pastoral Care is one of the most active and meaningful ministries in our parish. Through home visits, hospital visits, and visits to care homes, our dedicated volunteers reach out to people who often feel forgotten, isolated, or alone.

Sometimes, the greatest gift we can offer another person is not advice, a solution, or even many words. It is simply **our presence**. It is sitting beside someone, listening to their stories, holding their hand, sharing a prayer, or giving them the precious gift of our time.

In a world where everyone seems to be in a hurry, taking time for another person can become a powerful expression of love. Yet, our Pastoral Care ministry offers something even deeper than companionship. It brings people the reassurance that **Jesus has not forgotten them and that they are never alone**. Whether they receive Him in the Most Holy Eucharist, join in prayer, or simply experience His love through the kindness of another person, they are reminded that Christ walks with them through every season of life, including illness, suffering, and old age.

As your parish priest, I feel truly proud and grateful that our parish has such wonderful people who dedicate their time, energy, and hearts to this ministry. They reach out to those whom others may overlook and remind them that they remain valued members of our parish family. Their service is a beautiful example of the Gospel in action: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40).

To all our Pastoral Care volunteers, **thank you from the bottom of my heart**. Thank you for your generosity, compassion, patience, and faithful service. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to those who need Him most. Your ministry makes a real difference, even when its fruits are seen only in a quiet smile, a moment of peace, or a grateful heart.

Could God Be Calling You to This Ministry?

We warmly invite new volunteers to join our Pastoral Care team. You do not need to have all the answers or special skills. What matters most is a compassionate heart, a willingness to listen, and a desire to share God's love with someone who may be lonely, sick, or going through a difficult time. Even a short visit, a friendly conversation, or a simple prayer can make a tremendous difference in someone's life. You may never fully realize how much your presence means to another person.

If you feel called to this beautiful ministry, I warmly encourage you to reach out to Luella or me and discover how you can become involved.

May the Lord bless each of you abundantly and give you the strength and joy to continue bringing His presence, faith, and hope to others.

Sometimes, the greatest gift we can give is simply our time. And sometimes, being present for another person is the most powerful way we can bring Jesus into their life.

This year, we have a special reason to celebrate as **Ann Weston and Lee Amlin mark 10 years of dedicated service in the Pastoral Care ministry!** On behalf of our entire parish community, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and sincere gratitude to both of them. Thank you, Ann and Lee, for a decade of compassion, generosity, and faithful presence in the lives of those who need it most. May God continue to bless you abundantly and strengthen you in this beautiful ministry of bringing Christ's love, faith, and hope to others.

With sincere gratitude and prayers,

Fr. Mariusz Sztuk, SDS

Parish Priest, St. Francis de Sales Parish, High River





Saint John Paul II: A Man of Faith, Integrity, and Courage

October 22 – Memorial of Saint John Paul II

On Thursday, October 22, we celebrate the memorial of Saint John Paul II, one of the most beloved and influential popes in modern history. For me, this day has a special meaning because he was not only the shepherd of the universal Church but also my countryman. He was born Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, and his life continues to inspire me both as a Catholic priest and as a Pole.

Saint John Paul II was first and foremost a man deeply rooted in Jesus Christ. His life was shaped by prayer, the Word of God, devotion to Mary, and an unwavering trust in Divine Providence. He reminded the Church that holiness is not reserved for a select few but is a calling for every Christian. His message to the world was clear: open your hearts to Christ, because only in Him can we discover the fullness of our humanity and the true meaning of our lives.

One of his most memorable messages was, *"Be not afraid!"* These words were not simply an encouragement to be brave in difficult moments. They were an invitation to place our trust in Christ, who walks with us through suffering, uncertainty, and the challenges of everyday life. John Paul II knew suffering personally. He lost his family at a young age, lived through the horrors of the Second World War, survived an assassination attempt, and endured the physical limitations of old age. Yet he continued to serve the Church with remarkable faithfulness. Even when his body became weak, his spiritual witness remained strong.

His love for Christ also shaped his understanding of every human person. He taught that each person possesses an inherent dignity because we are created in the image and likeness of God. Our worth does not depend on our achievements, our social position, or the approval of others. We are loved by God, and this truth calls us to treat one another with respect, compassion, and love.

For me, this is also where the personal story of my countryman becomes especially important. I remember Saint John Paul II as a man of integrity who stood courageously against the communist regime in Poland. His faith was not separated from the realities of everyday life. At a time when an oppressive ideology sought to control people's lives, thoughts, and consciences, he reminded the Polish people that there was a truth greater than any political system.

His election as pope in 1978 brought enormous hope to Poland. During his first pilgrimage to his homeland in 1979, his presence and words strengthened the spirit of millions. His message, *"Be not afraid!"* became more than a spiritual encouragement. It helped awaken a nation to the truth that people are not made to live in fear, and that no government or ideology can take away the dignity given to us by God.

Freedom, human dignity, and respect are beautiful gifts from God. They are not privileges that those in power can grant or take away at their convenience. They are fundamental to what it means to be human. But these gifts also come with responsibility. We must protect them, not only for ourselves but also for our neighbours, especially those whose voices are ignored or whose dignity is threatened.

John Paul II taught us that we cannot remain indifferent when an ideology places itself above the human person. We must have the courage to stand against ideas and systems that diminish human dignity, restrict freedom of conscience, or deny the God-given worth of others. We do so not through hatred, but through truth, courage, respect, and love. This message remains relevant today. We may live in a different political and social reality than the one I knew in Poland, but the temptation to place an ideology above the human person has not disappeared. Whenever we begin to treat people as instruments of political, economic, or ideological goals rather than as persons created and loved by God, we need to remember the witness of Saint John Paul II.

As we celebrate his memorial, I am grateful that my homeland gave the Church such a remarkable shepherd. Yet Saint John Paul II belongs not only to Poland but to the whole world. His life reminds us that faith must shape the way we live, that freedom must be accompanied by responsibility, and that defending human dignity requires both conviction and love. May we never take these gifts for granted. May we have the courage to defend them when they are threatened and the humility to respect them in every human person.

Saint John Paul II, pray for us, and teach us not to be afraid!

Father Mariusz



FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome for coffee,
stretches & fellowship

October 2 & 16

After 9:15 AM Mass
Church Crying Room
(Meeting Room)

Volunteers needed to help offer this on a regular basis.
Contact: youth@stfrancisdesaleshighriver.com




SFDS GAME NIGHT

JOIN US FOR GAMES & FELLOWSHIP!
OCTOBER 24, 2026
6:30 PM • MEETING ROOM

INFO:
YOUTH@STFRANCISDESALSHIGHRIVER.COM

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FIRST RECONCILIATION MEETINGS



OCTOBER 17 & 24, 2026 | 6:00–7:00 PM

PARISH HALL | ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

FOR INFORMATION, CALL 403-652-2203
OR VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE



Before I formed you in the
womb I knew you, before you
were born I set you apart.

JEREMIAH 1:5



MEMORIAL LITURGY

FOR THOSE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A CHILD
THROUGH MISCARRIAGE OR STILLBIRTH

PRESIDER: BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

WHEN

Tuesday,
Nov. 10, 2026
at 7 pm

WHERE

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL
219 18 Ave SW
Calgary, AB

When families lose a baby in the womb,
the cries of birth go unheard; the grasp of
tiny fingers slips away. This profound loss
needs articulation. Join Bishop McGrattan
in a prayer gathering to commend our
children communally into the embrace of
our merciful God and to support those
who are grieving the loss of a child.

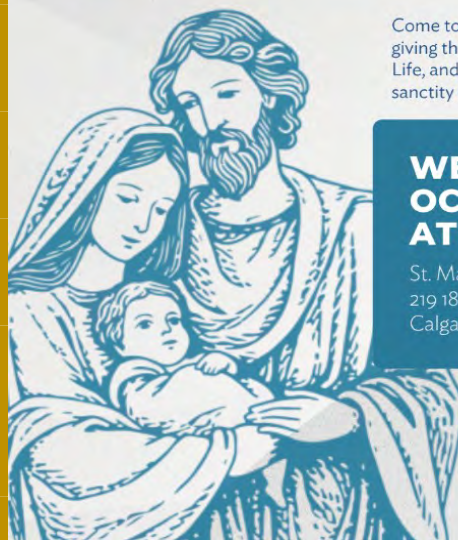
TO ATTEND

PLEASE REGISTER AT
MISCARRIAGELITURGY.CA



Mass for Life

WITH BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN



Come to a Eucharistic Celebration,
giving thanks to God, the Author of
Life, and praying for the dignity and
sanctity of every human life.

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 28,
AT 5 PM**

St. Mary's Cathedral
219 18 Ave SW
Calgary





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!

SFDS Ministry Schedule—Oct. 24 & 25, 2026

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Sat. 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 am</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Catherine M.	Cliff & Bae	N/A
<u>Lector</u>	Brandt/Joyce	Joanne/Jessica	Doreen/Mathew
<u>Choir</u>	SFDS Community Choir	Filipino Choir	N/A
<u>Coffee Hosts</u>	N/A	Gerry M. & Family	N/A

AN OINTING OF THE SICK

If you have been admitted to any of the following hospitals in Calgary and would like the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, you may contact your parish priest or call the Diocese of Calgary Call Center.

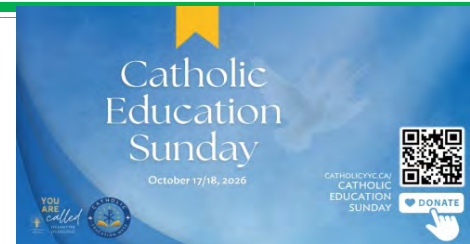
403-231-9505
Serving the following hospitals

- Alberta Children's Hospital
- Foothills Hospital
- Peter Lougheed Hospital
- Rockyview General Hospital
- South Health Campus

YOU ARE CALLED. YOU MATTER. YOU BELONG.



- October 18 – Saint Luke
- October 19 – Saint Paul of the Cross
- October 20 – Saint Hedwig
- October 20 – Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque
- October 22 – Saint John Paul II
- October 22 – Dedication of Consecrated Churches
- October 23 – Saint John Capistrano
- October 24 – Saint Anthony Mary Claret
- October 28 - Saint Simon and Saint Jude



Catholic Education Week Oct. 17–23

This week, we celebrate the gift of Catholic education and all who share in its mission. The Bishops remind us that formation begins in the home, is nourished in the parish, and is strengthened in our schools through shared witness of families, educators, clergy, trustees and the wider Catholic community. May our Catholic schools continue to be places where Christ is known and loved, where faith and learning are united, and where young people grow in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Catholic Education Sunday

This weekend, we give thanks for the gift of Catholic education across our Diocese, including our Catholic schools St. Mary's University and St. Joseph Seminary. Through the second collection, we support the important work of forming students and future leaders in faith, learning and service. This year, as a special one-time initiative, the Diocese of Calgary will match, up to **\$250,000**, the funds from the Catholic Education Sunday collection that are distributed among our five Catholic school districts. You can donate to Catholic Education Sunday at catholiccyyc.ca/catholiceducationsunday

Mass Intentions for October 1– 31, 2026

October 1	9:15 am	John Hoffart & Family †
October 2	9:15 am	Ella Fung †
October 3	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Mary Campbell † Our Parish
October 4	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Gerry McAuley † Jonathon & Family Rena Morrison
October 5	9:00 am	Patsy Bane
October 6	7:00 pm	Bruce Soch †
October 7	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass
October 8	9:15 am	John Hoffart & Family †
October 9	9:15 am	Marcel Brossart
October 10	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Terry Van Wezel † Frank Charette †
October 11	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	St. Andrew's CWL Sisters Our Parish Romeo & Rosalina Jalos-jos †
October 12	9:00 am	Anne Hemerling †
October 13	7:00 pm	Jonathon & Family
October 14	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	"Ad Intentionem Dantis" SFDS CWL Sisters
October 15	9:15 am	Rena Morrison
October 16	9:15 am	John Gall †
October 17	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Edie Izyk † T.J
October 18	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Joan MacDougall † Jonathon & Family Our Parish
October 19	9:00 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
October 20	7:00 pm	Mike & Sue Amatto
October 21	3:15 pm—(Seasons) 6:00 pm	"Ad Intentionem Dantis" Ruth Martinez †
October 22	9:15 am	Frank Charette †
October 23	9:15 am	Jerry, Raylene Rosell & Family
October 24	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Judy McLaughlin Our Parish
October 25	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Gerry McAuley † George & Mary-Ann Dearing Jovito Zerna Jr. †
October 26	9:00 am	Dominic Collucci †
October 27	7:00 pm	Adelina Collucci †
October 28	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	"Ad Intentionem Dantis" Theresa Marra †
October 29	9:15 am	Kathy Setka †
October 30	9:15 am	Michael Ryan †
October 31	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Theresa Schipanni † Glenda Goudie



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