



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

1 FEBRUARY



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



God chose what is weak in the world.

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-mariusz@francisdesaleshighriver.com
Phone: 403-992-2313

Deacon: Larry R. Driver
Email: deacondriver@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

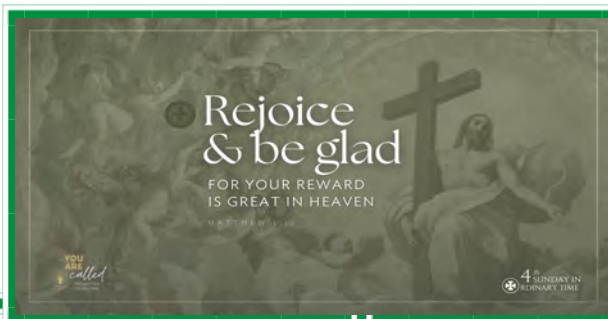
CONFESSIONS

Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



February 1, 2026

Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Zephaniah 2:3,12-13) We only hear the words of this minor prophet twice in a Sunday Mass. Much of his text paints the doom and gloom of the “Day of the Lord.” Yet Zephaniah’s threatening oracles has the surprise of God’s mercy nestled in its folds and today we hear it: “Perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger.” God is flexible, God’s mercy is simply always waiting around the corner. To seek this mercy we have to conform our behavior to the demands of the covenant.

Second Reading: (1 Corinthians 1:26-31) Again we hear Paul’s indignation as he continues to chide the Corinthians for their factions and conflicts. He reminds them of God’s upside-down approach to holiness: God chooses what is foolish, weak and lowly. So, says Paul, what are you doing focusing on human categories of power and status? God knows we idolize the things we can see and touch. Paul stresses that the reason for God to act contrary to human ways is to help us stay out of the trap of relying on human/finite power and wisdom.

Gospel: (Matthew 5:1-12) The Beatitudes are well-known among both Christians and non-Christians. They have become the signature of the Christian message, forming the substance of Jesus’ teaching. To call the poor, the mourning, the hungry, the persecuted “blessed” seems at first reading ludicrous – another upside-down move on God’s part. When we realize that Jesus makes these pronouncements from the perspective of God’s glory in which he himself shares, we realize that the poor, the mourning, the hungry, the persecuted are all identified with the Son of God who died on the cross: poor, despised and falsely condemned. It is Jesus’ capacity to hold divinity and humanity in loving tension in his moment of death, which makes us truly blessed in all our afflictions.

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

Lawyer In Heaven

A teacher, a garbage collector, and a lawyer wound up together at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter informed them that in order to get into heaven, they would each have to answer one question. St. Peter addressed the teacher and asked, “What was the name of the ship that crashed into the iceberg? They made a movie about it.” The teacher answered quickly, “That would be the Titanic.” St. Peter let her through the gate.

St. Peter turned to the garbage man and figuring heaven didn’t REALLY need all the odors this guy would bring with him, decided to make the question a little harder: “How many people died on the ship?” But the trash man had just seen the movie, and he answered, “about 1,500.”

“That’s right! You may enter,” said Peter.

Then St. Peter turned to the lawyer and said, “Name them.”

Submitted by Fr. Mariusz



Lyle George Needham Obituary



Lyle George Needham, passed away on January 25, 2026, in High River, Alberta. Born on July 20, 1930, in Melfort, Saskatchewan.

He is survived by his loving wife of 71.5 years, Doreen, and their eight children: Karen (Bill), Bill (Judy), Bob (Lori), MaryLou (Jim), Patti (Brad), Dennis (Maria), Tom (Coleen), and Elizabeth (Mark). Lyle was a cherished grandfather to 37 grandchildren and 53 great-grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild, 2 sisters, Beryl (Guy), Shirley and one brother AJ (Joyce). He leaves behind a legacy of love and family values that will be treasured by all who knew him. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. Lyle was predeceased by his parents George and Edna Needham and his sister Phyllis.

Many thanks to Fr. Mariusz, Drs. Adam and Nancy Vyse, and to the staff and friends at Medicine Tree Manor.

Lyle dedicated over four decades of his professional life as a banker at the Royal Bank of Canada and at Stampede Park, where he was respected for his diligence and integrity.

A prayer service will be held on Tuesday February 3 at 7:00PM at Snodgrass Funeral Home High River.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, February 4 at 11:00AM at St Francis De Sales Catholic Church in High River.

St. Blaise and the Blessing of the Throats

Next **Tuesday, February 3**, we will celebrate the **Feast of St. Blaise**, the beloved bishop and martyr, known for his powerful intercession in protecting the sick, especially those with ailments of the throat.

The tradition of the **Blessing of the Throats** dates back to the 4th century. According to Church history, St. Blaise once miraculously saved a young boy who was choking on a fishbone. In gratitude, the Church began asking for his intercession for all who suffer from illnesses of the throat and respiratory problems. Today, this blessing continues as a sign of God’s protection and care for our health.

During **Mass**, we will offer the **Blessing of the Throats**. St. Blaise reminds us of God’s care for our well-being, and this blessing is a simple yet powerful way to ask for his protection over our voices, our ability to speak, and our daily lives.

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us for **Mass on Tuesday**, and to receive this special blessing. Whether young or old, it’s an opportunity to experience the prayers and protection of St. Blaise.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Valentine's Night Celebration



St. Francis de Sales Parish warmly invites married couples to a special Valentine's Celebration centered on faith, love, and commitment.

FRIDAY

13TH FEBRUARY

This evening is an opportunity to thank God for the gift of your marriage, to renew your vows, and to spend meaningful time together in a joyful atmosphere.

St. Francis de Sales Parish
to Register call: 403.652.2203



Valentine's Day for Married Couples – Dinner for Two

Dear Married Couples,

Marriage is one of the most beautiful gifts God has entrusted to humanity. It is not just living together, but a journey where we learn love, faithfulness, forgiveness, and mutual devotion. In the sacrament of marriage, God is present every day — in joys and successes, but also in challenges and moments of trial. It is in everyday life that true love grows, matures over time, and is strengthened by trust and God's grace.

Yet today, marriage is not always easy. Many couples face difficulties. Divorce is too often an easy option. As a result, society looks at the institution of marriage with skepticism. More and more, people are choosing to live without a sacramental bond. That is why we need care, support, and encouragement for married couples, now, more than ever.

As a Church, we **wholeheartedly support the sacrament of marriage.** We want to accompany, help, and strengthen couples at every stage of their journey — in times of joy, as well as in times of trial. We hope that married couples never feel alone, and that their relationship is treated with respect and love.

Valentine's Day is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on **sacramental love lived according to God's plan.** It is also a perfect moment to pause, appreciate your marriage, and renew what is most important.

That is why we warmly invite all married couples from our parish to join us for a **Valentine's Dinner for Two.**

Evening Program:

- **5:30 PM – Holy Mass**, during which couples will renew their marriage vows from their wedding day
- **Short 15-minute break**
- **Special talk** (30–45 minutes) by **Eunice Peterson**, psychologist (*topic will be a lovely surprise!*)

Romantic dinner for two, in a beautiful Valentine's setting We want this evening to be a time of closeness, conversation, inspiration, and joy in being together.

Cost: \$60 per couple (**because of the space, we are limited to 25 couples**)

We invite you with all our hearts



May this evening be an opportunity to renew love and strengthen what God has joined together.



*St. Francis
De Sales*



World Day for Consecrated Life †

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candelmas)

World Day for Consecrated Life – February 2

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

On **February 2**, the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**, also known as **Candlemas**, when Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to the Temple. There, Simeon recognized Him as a “*light for revelation to the nations*” (Luke 2:32). The blessing of candles on this day reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World.

This day is also observed as the **World Day for Consecrated Life**, instituted by **Pope John Paul II in 1997**:

“...to help the entire Church esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels and to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord.”

It is a time to give thanks for the priests, brothers, sisters, and consecrated men and women who faithfully serve Christ in our parishes, schools, hospitals, missions, and in prayerful hidden works. Here at **St. Francis de Sales Parish**, we are blessed to have a member of the Salvatorian community whose witness inspires all of us in faith and service.

Practical ways we can celebrate and honor consecrated life in our parish:

- **Attend Mass and join in prayer** for consecrated men and women.
- **Thank them personally** for their dedication and support in parish life.
- **Encourage vocations** by praying for young people to hear and answer God's call.

Support their work through volunteering, donations, or participating in parish ministries they lead.

May this Feast of the Presentation and the World Day for Consecrated Life renew our hearts to be **a light for Christ in our families, communities, and parish.**



Saint of Courage: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Dear Parishioners,

This month, we honor **St. Agatha**, a shining example of courage and faith in the face of suffering. St. Agatha was a young Christian woman from **Sicily**, living in the 3rd century. Known for her deep devotion to God, she consecrated her life to Christ and chose to remain a virgin, dedicating herself fully to Him.

Unfortunately, during a time of persecution against Christians, Agatha's faith brought her into conflict with powerful authorities. She was arrested for refusing to renounce her faith and resist advances from a Roman official. Despite facing horrific torture, she remained steadfast, placing her trust in God rather than succumbing to fear or threats. Tradition tells us that she endured her suffering with unwavering faith, offering her pain as a witness to God's love.

St. Agatha's courage has made her a **patron saint of breast cancer patients, nurses, and those suffering from abuse**, reminding us that even in our own trials, God's grace can sustain us. Her feast day, **February 5**, invites us to reflect on the power of faith, purity, and perseverance.

As we remember St. Agatha, let us be inspired by her bravery and her devotion. May her example encourage us to stand firm in our beliefs, offer compassion to those in need, and trust in God through all difficulties.

“Strengthened by the courage of saints like Agatha, we can face life's trials with faith and hope, knowing that God's love never fails.”



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



THIS WEEK AT SFDS

Sunday, February 1

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, February 2—PRESENTATION OF THE LORD(F)

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
9:00 – 9:45 AM – Mass
9:45–11:00 am– Valentines Committee Meeting
7:00–8:30 PM - Pro Life Speaker

Tuesday, February 3—ST. BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR (M)

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

Wednesday, February 4—ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

11:00–12:00 pm– Funeral Mass for Lyle Needham
5:00– 5:45 PM - Confessions
6:00–6:30 PM - Mass
6:45–7:45 PM– Financial Council Meeting
6:45–8:00 PM– CWL Executive Meeting

Thursday, February 5

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

Friday, February 6—ST. PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS (M)

8:00–8:30 AM— Staff Mass at Holy Spirit School
8:45 - 9:15 AM - Confession
8:45 – 9:15 AM – Rosary
9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass
9:00 – 11:30 AM – TOPS Group (East Hall)
2:00 2:30 PM— Mass at NDC School

Saturday, January 31— ST. JOHN BOSCO

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
8:30 – 9:00 AM– Rosary
9:00 – 9:30 AM – Daily Mass
9:00– 4:00 PM— Pastoral Care Team Training
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confession
5:00 – 6:00 PM – Vigil Mass



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

January 24 & 25, 2026

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Sat. 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 am</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>
Greeters	Collins/Ritchies	Dennis & Carol	*****
Ushers	K of C	K of C	K of C
Lector	Susan & Sharon	Lucius & Therese	Brandt & Ann-Marie
Choir	SFDS Comm. Choir	Children's Choir	*****
Share The Word	N/A	N/A	N/A
Coffee Hosts	N/A	?	N/A

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

The Decorating Committee for the Valentines Dinner are looking for some tall plants & room dividers for their set up.

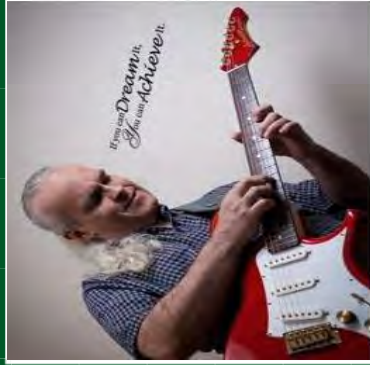
If you have any that we could borrow, please call Nancy in the church office at 403-652-2203.





February 1– 28, 2026

February 1	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Millie Bagozi Carolyn Kuziw † Our Parish
February 2	9:00 am	Jensen Family
February 3	7:00 pm	Terry Michelkow
February 4	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass
February 5	9:15 am	Earla Sapinsky
February 6	9:15 am	Earla Sapinsky
February 7	9:00 am 5:00 pm	The Baldwin's God Children Victor Zelinski †
February 8	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	St. Andrew's CWL Sisters Our Parish Carolyn Kuziw †
February 9	9:00 am	God Parents of the Baldwin Children
February 10	7:00 pm	Norma Rosell †
February 11	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Fr. Mariusz SFDS CWL Sisters
February 12	9:15 am	Frank Paslawski †
February 13	9:15 am	Frank Paslawski †
February 14	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Deacon Larry & Therese Victor Zelinski †
February 15	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Vince Treadgold † Carolyn Kuziw †
February 16	9:00 am	Frank Paslawski †
February 17	7:00 pm	Victor Zelinski †
February 18	3:15 pm (Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	Lyle Needham † Paul Stelter
February 19	9:15 am	George & Antonina Sztuk †
February 20	9:15 am	Victor Zelinski †
February 21	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Debbie Mueller Ou Parish
February 22	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Tino Pasolli † Theresa Fallows † Carolyn Kuziw †
February 23	9:00 am	Grant Fraser
February 24	7:00 pm	Barbara Charette
February 25	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Donald Fath † George & Antonina †
February 26	9:15 am	Zelinsky Family
February 27	9:15 am	Pauline Wild †
February 28	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Armand DesRochers † Martin Lima & Carmela Gonzalez †



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T: 403-652-5608 F: 403-652-5609

highriverpharmacy@gmail.com

DARLENE BEUTLER

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