



St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

5 JULY 2026



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



I will bless your name for ever, my King and God.

Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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Contact Us

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Email: deaconldriver@gmail.com

Secretary: Nancy Barton
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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

XIV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



July 5,
2026

Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Zecharia 9:9-10) In the gracious will of the Father, Jesus reveals these things only to the “childlike”—those who humble themselves before Him as little children (see Sirach 2:17). These alone can recognize and receive Jesus as the just savior and meek king promised to daughter Zion, Israel, in today’s First Reading.

Second Reading: (Romans 8:9, 11-13) We are to live by the Spirit we received in Baptism (see Galatians 5:16), putting to death our old ways of thinking and acting, as Paul exhorts in today’s Epistle. Our “yoke” is to be His new law of love (see John 13:34), by which we enter into the “rest” of His kingdom.

Gospel: (Matthew 11:25-30) Jesus is portrayed in today’s Gospel as a new and greater Moses. Moses, the meekest man on earth (see Numbers 12:3), was God’s friend (see Exodus 34:12, 17). Only he knew God “face to face” (see Deuteronomy 34:10). And Moses gave Israel the yoke of the Law, through which God first revealed Himself and how we are to live (see Jeremiah 2:20; 5:5).

For more information about these reflections, from Scott Hahn, please click on the link <https://stpaulcenter.com/posts/a-yoke-for-the-childlike-scott-hahn-reflects-on-the-fourteenth-sunday-in-ordinary-time>

The Vacation Confusion

A parishioner tells the priest after Mass:

“Father, I’ll be away all summer on vacation.”

The priest smiles and says:

“Don’t worry—God is very experienced in travel. Just remember... He also attends Mass wherever you are.”

Submitted by Fr. Marius



1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist

2026/2027

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 21, 2026)

Please go to our website to register for these Sacraments

<https://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com/index.php/sacraments/eucharist>



Confirmation 2026/2027

The registration link is now open online to register your child for **Confirmation**.
Your child must be in Grade 7-12 for this Sacrament.

(please note: deadline for registration is Sept. 25, 2026)

Please go to our website to register for these Sacraments

<https://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com/index.php/sacraments/confirmation>

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy

Summer Office Hours

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

If you need Fr. Mariusz after hours, please call him on his cell # 403-992-2313

Please Note:

Nancy will be on holidays from **July 4— July 26, 2025** however, she is blessed to have wonderful volunteers in the office.

Thank you to the Volunteers!





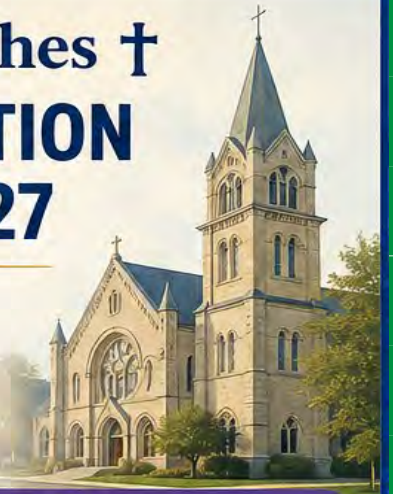
† St. Francis de Sales Parishes †

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SCHEDULE 2026–2027



All preparation sessions take place on **Saturdays at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall unless otherwise noted.

This schedule has been carefully planned to avoid long weekends, Thanksgiving, Family Day weekend, the Easter season, school spring breaks, and major parish events. Minor adjustments may be necessary should unforeseen parish needs arise.



COMBINED REGISTRATION MEETING

Saturday, September 12, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Registration for:

- First Reconciliation
- First Holy Communion



Parents are expected to attend without their child.



CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION MEETING

Saturday, September 19, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Parents are expected to attend without their child.



† FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

- September 26, 2026
- October 17, 2026
- October 24, 2026
- November 7, 2026
- November 21, 2026
- December 5, 2026



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

- January 23, 2027
- February 6, 2027
- February 27, 2027
- March 20, 2027
- April 17, 2027
- May 1, 2027



CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

- October 3, 2026
- October 17, 2026
- November 14, 2026
- December 12, 2026
- January 16, 2027
- February 27, 2027



† SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATION DATES



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT

Saturday, May 15, 2027
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendance at the retreat is expected for all First Holy Communion candidates.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

Sunday, May 30, 2027 – 2:00 PM

Celebrated on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

CONFIRMATION

The dates for the Confirmation Retreat and the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be announced at a later date.



PARISH NOTE

- We kindly ask all families to review the schedule carefully and mark these dates on their calendars.
- Regular attendance at all preparation sessions is an important part of the preparation for the Sacraments. If a child or candidate is unable to attend due to illness or another serious reason, please notify the parish office as soon as possible.
- Every effort has been made to avoid major holidays, school breaks, and parish-wide events. However, minor adjustments may be required if unforeseen parish needs arise.
- Please continue to pray for all our children, youth, parents, sponsors, catechists, and volunteers as they prepare to celebrate these sacred milestones in their faith.



“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” — Mark 10:14



Summer Holidays

As the summer season arrives, many of us look forward to well-deserved rest, travel, and time spent with family and friends. On behalf of the parish, I wish all our parishioners a joyful, peaceful, and safe holiday time. May these summer days be filled with moments of gratitude, renewal, and God's abundant blessings.

Holidays are a special gift from God—a time to slow down, appreciate creation, and strengthen our relationships with one another. Yet, even in the midst of rest and travel, we are gently reminded that there is no holiday from God. The Lord accompanies us wherever we go, and His invitation to worship remains constant.

For this reason, Sunday Mass continues to be the heart of our week, even during the summer months. Wherever your travels take you, I encourage you to keep Sunday Eucharist as a priority. Attending Mass in different parishes can also be a beautiful reminder that we are part of one universal Church, united in Christ.

As you enjoy your holidays, we would love to share in your joy. If you are travelling, please consider sending us a picture from your holiday destination so that we can include it in our parish community space and celebrate together the beauty of our shared experiences.

You can send your holiday pictures to:

Fr-Marius@francisdesaleshighriver.com

May the Lord keep you safe on every journey and bring you home refreshed in body, mind, and spirit.

Wishing you a blessed and restorative summer holiday.

Fr. Marius



Q&A Session

With Fr. Mariusz

**Fr. Marius Answers the
Liturgical Questions
from Parishioners**



Why the Priest Kisses the Altar?

One of the quiet but most ancient gestures in the Sacred Liturgy is the priest's kiss of the altar. It happens almost unnoticed at the beginning and end of Mass, yet it carries within it layers of spiritual meaning and deep historical roots reaching back to the earliest centuries of the Church.

From the beginning of Christian worship, the altar has never been understood as a mere table. It is the place of sacrifice, the symbol of Christ Himself—both the Lamb offered and the High Priest who offers. In the Book of Revelation, the heavenly altar is the place where worship rises before God, and on earth the Church mirrors this mystery in every celebration of the Eucharist. The priest's kiss is therefore not directed to wood or stone, but to Christ, truly present in the Eucharistic mystery that will soon be made present upon it.

Historically, the reverence shown to the altar developed very early. In the Roman tradition, the altar was often associated with the tombs of martyrs. The bodies or relics of the saints were placed beneath it as a sign that the Church is built upon the witness of those who gave their lives for Christ. When the priest kisses the altar, he is also, in a sense, venerating this communion of saints—those who, having offered their lives, are now united forever with the sacrifice of Christ.

The kiss itself is an ancient biblical and cultural sign of love, honor, and peace. In Scripture, a kiss can signify reconciliation, covenant, and devotion. In the liturgy, it becomes a sacred expression of the Church's love for her Lord. The priest, acting in the person of Christ (*in persona Christi*), begins the Eucharistic sacrifice with a gesture of reverence that acknowledges that what is about to take place is not ordinary human activity, but divine mystery.

Spiritually, the kiss of the altar also marks a threshold. It is as if the priest is entering holy ground—crossing from the ordinary into the eternal. At the beginning of Mass, it is a greeting of love to Christ who will soon be made sacramentally present. At the end, it is a farewell of thanksgiving, sealing the offering that has just been made and sending forth the Church strengthened by grace.

The Fathers of the Church often reminded the faithful that visible signs in the liturgy point to invisible realities. The kiss of the altar is one such sign: simple, brief, almost hidden—yet filled with the weight of centuries of faith. It teaches us that love for Christ is not only spoken in words, but expressed in gestures, silence, and reverence.

When we see the priest bend low and kiss the altar, we are being invited to do the same interiorly: to approach the Eucharist with awe, to recognize Christ at the center of our worship, and to remember that every Mass is an encounter with the living God who continues to offer Himself for the salvation of the world.



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, July 5— St. Anthony Zaccaria

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Vulcan)
11:00 – 12:00 AM – Mass (High River)
2:00 – 4:00 PM – Bridal Shower
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confessions
5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass

Monday, July 6—St. Maria Goretti

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

Tuesday, July 7

6:00 – 7:00 PM – Confessions
7:00 – 7:30 PM – Mass

Wednesday, July 8

3:15– 3:45 PM– Mass at HR Hospital
3:30–4:00 PM– Liturgy at the Seasons HR
5:00– 6:00 PM - Confession
6:00– 6:30 PM - Mass

Thursday, July 9—St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions

8:00 – 9:15 AM – Confession
9:15 - 10:00 AM - Mass
10AM–9:00 PM – Adoration and Benediction

Friday, July 10— St. Thomas

8:45 - 9:15 AM - Confession
8:45 – 9:15 AM – Rosary
9:00–11:30 AM– TOPS Group Meeting
9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass

Saturday, July 11—St. Benedict of Nursia

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
8:30– 9:00 AM- Rosary
9:00– 9:30 AM – Daily Mass
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confession
5:00– 6:00 PM– 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 July 11 & 12, 2026

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Sat. 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 am</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Lee A.	Mary Ann D.	*****
<u>Lector</u>	Ann-Marie Donna	Jessieca Joanne	Johnnie Kathy
<u>Choir</u>	*****	SFDS Com. Choir	*****

Liturgical Calendar for July

Special for Canada

July 14 – Saint Kateri Tekakwitha *First Indigenous North American saint; very important in Canada.*

July 26 – Saint Anne and Saint Joachim *St. Anne is especially venerated in Quebec and across Canada.*



Major Universal Saints in July

July 3 – Saint Thomas the Apostle
July 11 – Saint Benedict of Nursia
July 15 – Saint Bonaventure
July 22 – Saint Mary Magdalene
July 25 – Saint James the Greater
July 29 – Saint Martha (often with Mary & Lazarus)
July 31 – Saint Ignatius of Loyola

MASS INTENTIONS

July 1– 31, 2026

July 1	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass †
July 2	9:15 am	Fred & Anna Meyers †
July 3	9:15 am	Maj Wojcik †
July 4	9:00 am 5:00 pm	“Ad Intentionen Dantis” John Hoffart Sr. & Family †
July 5	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	St. Andrew’s CWL Sisters Our Parish Jacqui Vanderfluit
July 6	9:00 am	Jonathon Banks
July 7	7:00 pm	Adam Chin-Fatt
July 8	4:00 pm (HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	“Ad Intentionen Dantis” SFDS CWL Sisters
July 9	9:15 am	Luella Wojcik & Family
July 10	9:15 am	Karen Artier-Aries †
July 11	9:00 am 5:00 pm	“Ad Intentionen Dantis” Our Parish
July 12	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Shirely Patrick † Felix & Carmen Amores † Maj Wojcik †
July 13	9:00 am	Maj Wojcik †
July 14	7:00 pm	Jonathon Banks
July 15	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	“Ad Intentionen Dantis” George & Antonina Sztuk †
July 16	9:15 am	Maj Wojcik †
July 17	9:15 am	Norma Rosell †
July 18	9:00 am 5:00 pm	“Ad Intentionen Dantis” Bob & Karen Bateman
July 19	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	George & Antonina Sztuk † George & Mary Ann Dearing Our Parish
July 20	9:00 am	Lyle Needham †
July 21	7:00 pm	Maj Wojcik
July 22	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Allan Fath † Maj Wojcik †
July 23	9:15 am	Gordon & Joyce Bateman
July 24	9:15 am	Maj Wojcik †
July 25	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Bernadette O’Donnell Tony Chicilo†
July 26	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Rob Stokes Felix & Carmen Amores †
July 27	9:00 am	Maj Wojcik †
July 28	7:00 pm	JF Tetreault
July 29	4:00 pm—(HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Maj Wojcik † Jonathon Banks
July 30	9:15 am	Brittany Pineo
July 31	9:15 am	John Bartolo †



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