

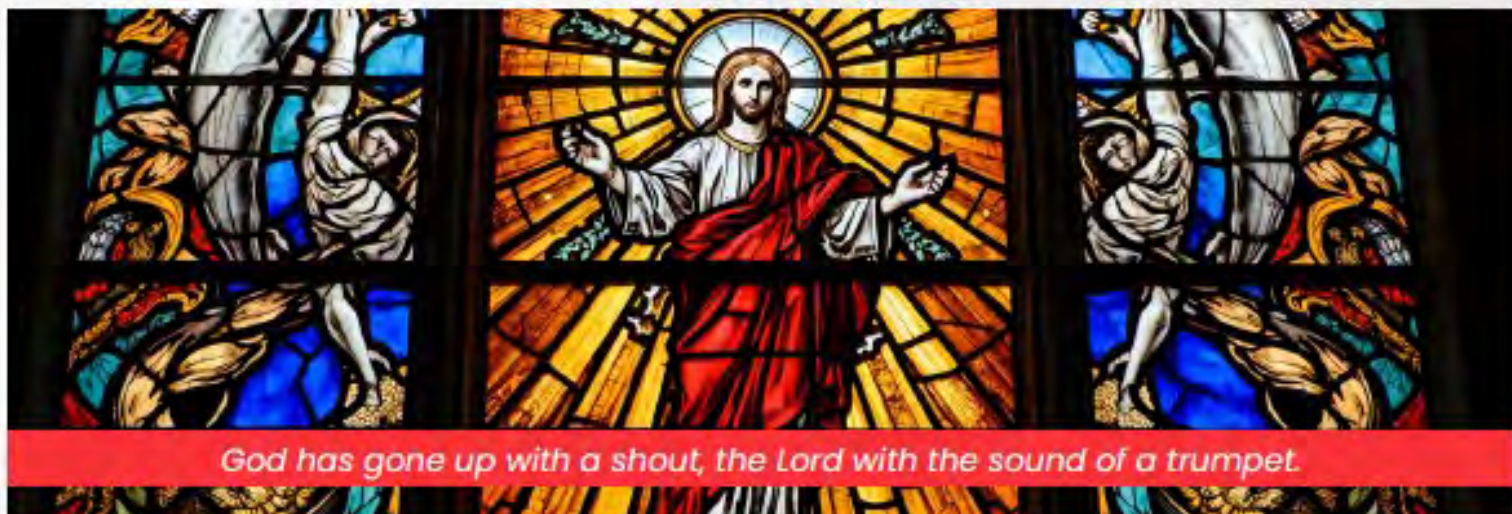


St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish BULLETIN

17 MAY 2026



Roman Catholic Parish
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB



Office

St. Francis de Sales Parish
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High River, Alberta T1V 1A4

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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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Solemnity of Ascension of the Lord

May 17,
2026



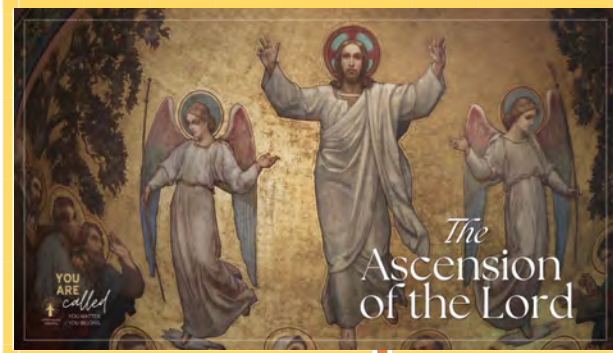
Sunday Readings

First Reading: (Acts 1:1-11) Comparing the various resurrection appearances and chronologies across the four gospels raises questions. Only Luke places 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension. Luke is not interested in a linear chronology (*chronos*) but in using the number 40, he draws strong parallels with other key events in salvation history (employing *kairos* non-linear "God's time"). The Israelites spent 40 years in the desert, and Jesus spent 40 days in the desert: it is a number of importance and symbolic meaning. Jesus' visible, tangible presence needs to end in order for the Spirit to come to the apostles, which in turn starts the ministry of the early church.

Second Reading: (Ephesians 1:17-23) Given the minuscule size of the early church it is amazing to hear in Paul's letter the cosmic size of the Christian vision and the church's perceived mission. Paul is certain: the resurrection, ascension and glory of Jesus the Christ is the Father's doing. This cosmic vision – of Jesus as Lord over all creation – is shared with all who believe, as a rich and divine inheritance.

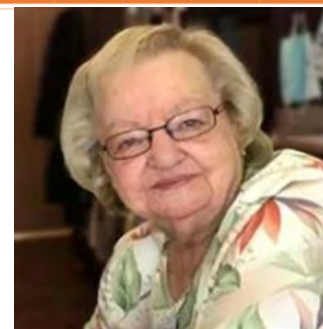
Gospel: (Matthew 28:16-20) For Matthew, and for John, ascension coincided with the resurrection, thus completing Christ's glory in heaven. The end of Matthew's Gospel has Jesus declaring his authority and commissioning the apostles to carry on his work of spreading the Good News of God's reign of peace, justice and love.

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



A Funeral Service will be held on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.**

Family and friends are invited to gather at the Sheppard Family Park immediately following the reception



Obituary for Mrs. Justine Anderson - April 10, 1938 - February 13, 2026

It is with heavy hearts yet profound gratitude for a life well lived that we announce the passing of our mother Justine Anderson (Judy). She left us peacefully at home on February the 13th 2026 at the remarkable age of 87. Her life was a testament to resilience, love and joy and will be forever remembered for the warmth she brought to all who knew her.

Born on April 10, 1938, in the town of Maklin, Saskatchewan. She was the beloved daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Stang. Her early years were filled with laughter and learning surrounded by her siblings Bert, Ron, Richard, Hilda, Elmer, Molly, Maryan, Louise, Willy and Betty all of whom predeceased her. She is survived by her siblings Eddie, Joe, Leona, Lorraine and Sharon. She carried the fond memories of her youth with her throughout her life, cherishing the bonds of family that were so deeply rooted in her heart.

In 1954 she met the love of her life, Bruce, while working at Canadian Bank of Commerce right out of high school. Their love was characterized by mutual respect, unwavering support and a shared passion for life. Together, they moved through life's chapters with grace, eventually settling in Bruce's hometown of High River. There she became the co-owner of the Imperial Service garage, showcasing her entrepreneurial spirit and tenacity. Following the sale of the dealership, she worked for AGT, further demonstrating her adaptability and dedication.

In 1981 She and Bruce embarked on a new adventure, opening Mama's Kitchen. A family run business that flourished under her guidance and with the help of her children she created a warm and inviting space that became a cornerstone of the community where smiles and stories were shared over lovingly prepared meals.

Her life was enriched by her many interests including her love for travel, especially her cherished trips South. A lover of games, she was known for her infectious smile and competitive spirit in countless card games and rounds of golf. Music played a significant role in her life, and she was known for her ability to entertain, bringing laughter and joy to those around her.

She is survived by her devoted children Rhonda, Karen (Norman) Janet, Janice (Walter) and Stanley (Darcy) who carry forth her legacy of love and kindness. Her memory will forever be cherished by her 22 grandchildren 38 great grandchildren and 1 great- great grandchild who adored their Grandma and will continue to be inspired by her enduring example of grace and generosity.

She was predeceased by her loving husband Bruce, her beloved daughter Debbie, granddaughter Sarah, grandson Jamie and her son-in-law Ken, whose memories she held dear and who are now reunited with her in an eternal embrace of peace.

We celebrate her life knowing she's at peace surrounded by her family she loves so dearly. Her legacy is one of compassion, joy and unyielding zest for life. Rest in peace dearest Mom, knowing you were cherished beyond measure. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada www.alzheimer.ca



Parish Website



Online Giving





Mothers Day

2026



Mrs. Bernadette Helen O'Donnell
April 15, 1954 - October 12, 2025

The family of Bernadette (know to many locally as Bernie Hoffart) will be having a Memorial Candlelight concert dedicated to the memory of Bernadette on **May 31, 2026**.

It will be held at **Seasons of Bowness Park**,
8900—48 Ave. NW, Calgary.
Time is 5:00 pm until late.



Marriage Enrichment workshop

Financial Stewardship

Thursday, May 21 at 7 - 9 pm

Married nearly nine years and parents to two daughters, Guillermo and Sara Garcia have taught financial literacy to engaged couples in the Diocese of Calgary since 2018, emphasizing good stewardship as a foundation for a strong marriage.

\$20 per session
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call 403-218-5521
marac@calgarydiocese.ca

LOCATION
Catholic Pastoral Centre, 120 17th Ave SW
Calgary, AB

REGISTER HERE

Four more spots left in this workshop.
You can register online or call Mara at 403-218-5521.

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CALGARYDIOCESE.CA
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The Pope's Pastoral Works



SECOND COLLECTION
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

Your change changes lives



Your generosity supports real families facing real challenges! By filling a bottle, you're joining a community of generous people, coming together to bring hope to young families in our community. The bottles added together provide support for today and impact for generations.

Participating is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1 Put your cash, coins, or a cheque in the bottle, or donate online.
- 2 Bring your bottle back on Father's Day (June 21st).
- 3 Sign up for our newsletter and keep us in your prayers.

Other Ways to Give:

- Donate online <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mainsprings/>
- E-transfer to accounting@mainsprings.com
- Send a cheque payable to Mainsprings
- Scan our QR code

*Donations \$25 or more will be issued a donation receipt.

Donate Today!



Mainsprings Pregnancy and Family Support Association is pleased to raise an estimated amount of \$500,000 this year on fundraising campaigns. It will cost our organization an estimated \$25,000 to raise this. The money raised will go to board-approved programs. For further information, please contact Cheryl Fisher at 403-268-3716. Our address is 305, 625 - 7 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1A5.

Q&A Session

With Fr. Mariusz

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



A small glass container beside the tabernacle?

Many parishioners notice a small glass container beside the tabernacle and wonder about its purpose.

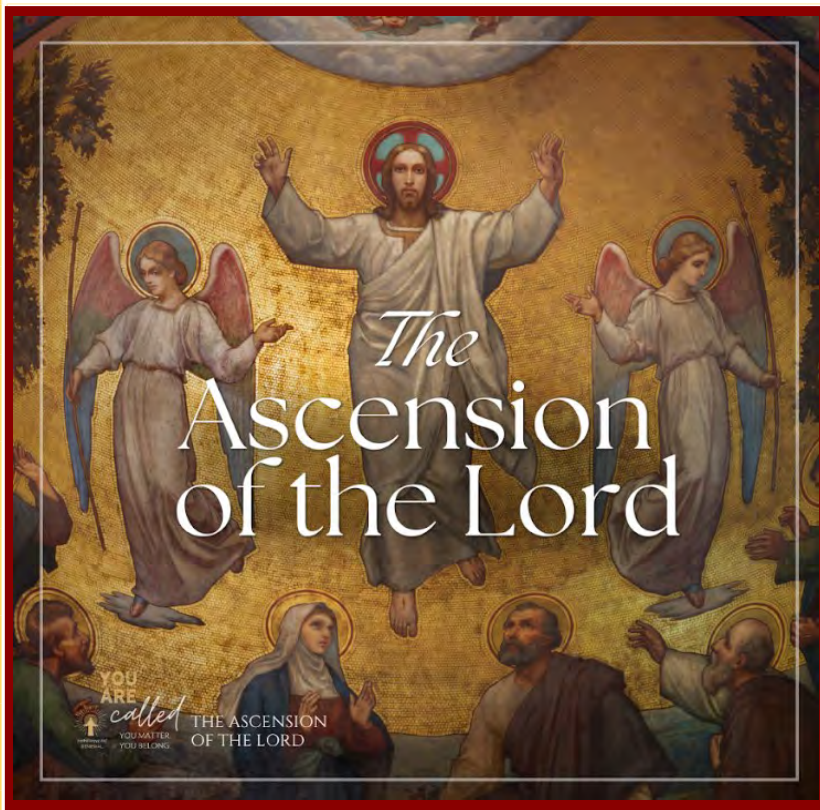
This vessel is commonly called the *ablution cup* or *purification vessel*, though some people mistakenly refer to it as the “lavabo.” The word *lavabo* actually refers to the washing of the priest’s hands during Mass.

The small glass container beside the tabernacle holds water used to purify sacred vessels or to dissolve any remaining particles of the Holy Eucharist. Since Catholics believe that Jesus is truly present in the consecrated Host, the Church treats even the smallest fragments of the Eucharist with the greatest reverence and care.

For example, after Holy Communion, if a small fragment of the Host remains on someone’s fingers, it may be placed into this water so that it dissolves respectfully. The water is then poured into a special drain in the church called a *sacrarium*, which goes directly into the earth rather than into the regular sewer system.

This small container is therefore a quiet but powerful reminder of our Catholic belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It teaches us reverence, care, and love for the greatest gift Christ left to His Church — Himself in the Blessed Sacrament.





The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is one of the great feasts of the Church, yet it is sometimes overshadowed by Christmas, Easter, or Pentecost. At first glance, it may even seem strange to celebrate Jesus “leaving” His disciples. But the Ascension is not about absence — it is about mission, hope, and the promise that Christ remains with us forever.

Forty days after His Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven before the eyes of His apostles. As St. Luke describes in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples stood looking toward the sky until angels reminded them that Jesus would return again in glory. This moment marked the end of Christ’s visible earthly ministry, but also the beginning of the Church’s mission in the world.

Why is this feast significant today?

First, the Ascension reminds us that heaven is real. In a world focused almost entirely on success, possessions, entertainment, and temporary achievements, Christians are called to remember that our true homeland is with God. Jesus opened the gates of heaven not only for Himself, but for all humanity. His Ascension gives us hope that our lives have an eternal purpose.

Second, the Ascension challenges us not to remain standing still. The apostles could have remained gazing into the sky, paralyzed by fear or sadness. Instead, Jesus entrusted them with a mission: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” The feast invites every Christian to ask: How am I living my faith? Am I bringing Christ into my family, workplace, school, and community?

Third, the Ascension teaches us about trust. Jesus physically departed, yet He promised: “I am with you always.” Even when God may seem distant in times of suffering, confusion, or uncertainty, Christ continues to guide His Church through the Holy Spirit. The Ascension is not the story of Jesus abandoning humanity, but of Christ remaining present in a new and deeper way.

Do we still need this celebration today? Absolutely.

Modern society often encourages people to live only for the present moment. The Ascension lifts our eyes beyond daily worries and reminds us that human life is more than material success or personal comfort. It calls us to live with hope, courage, and responsibility. It reminds us that every baptized person has a mission to witness to the Gospel.

The feast also offers comfort. Jesus, who shared our human life, suffering, and death, now reigns in glory. Our humanity has entered heaven through Him. This means that our struggles, prayers, sacrifices, and acts of love are not meaningless. In Christ, they are transformed and given eternal value.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, may we not simply look toward the sky, but move forward with faith. Christ has ascended, but He has not left us alone. He sends us into the world with hope in our hearts and the promise that one day we too are called to share in His glory.



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, May 17

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Mass (Vulcan)
11:00 – 12:00 AM – Mass (High River)
1:00 – 4:00 PM – Couples For Christ
4:00 – 5:00 PM – Confessions
5:00 – 6:00 PM – Mass

Monday, May 18— St. John I

8:00 – 9:00 AM – Confession
9:00 – 9:45 AM – Mass
6:30 – 8:30 PM – Grief Share Program

Tuesday, May 19

11:00 – 2:00 PM – Funeral Service for Judy Anderson
6:00 – 7:00 PM – Confessions
7:00 – 7:30 PM – Mass

Wednesday, May 20—St. Bernadine of Sienna

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

Thursday, May 21—St. Eugene de Mazenod, St. Christopher and companions

8:00 – 9:15 AM – Confession
9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass
10AM – 9:00 PM – Adoration and Benediction
3:00 – 5:00 PM – Fr. Mariusz at St. Luke's Grad
7:00 – 8:30 PM – RCIA

Friday, May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia

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
12:30 – 1:30 PM – Set Up for NDC Grad Mass
2:00 – 4:00 PM – NDC Grad Mass

Saturday, May 23

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 May 23 & 24, 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	*****
<u>Lector</u>	Susan Sharon	Roy Johnnie	Kathy Donna
<u>Choir</u>	SFDS Community Choir	Filipino Choir	*****
<u>Coffee Hosts</u>	N/A	Gerry M. & Family	N/A
<u>Share The Word</u>	N/A	Megan & Bridget	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



MASS INTENTIONS

May 1– 31, 2026

May 1	9:15 am	Stacey Schafer
May 2	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Jack Turner † Our Parish
May 3	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	“Ad Intentionem Dantis” Maya Espino † Carolyn Kuziw †
May 4	9:00 am	Donna Chin-Fatt
May 5	7:00 pm	Greg Rosell
May 6	6:00 pm	Bereavement Mass †
May 7	9:15 am	Sharon & Dean Turner
May 8	9:15 am	Ken & Carmen MacKenzie †
May 9	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Susan D’Souza Theresa Fallows †
May 10	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	St. Andrew CWL Sisters Our Parish Carolyn Kuziw †
May 11	9:00 am	Tim McLean †
May 12	7:00 pm	Jack Turner †
May 13	4:00 pm (HR Hospital) 6:00 pm	Fr. Mariusz SFDS CWL Sisters
May 14	9:15 am	Michelle Schaefer †
May 15	9:15 am	Dail Howe
May 16	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Cooper Howe Ronald
May 17	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Wladyslaw Pucala † Carolyn Kuziw †
May 18	9:00 am	Donavon Howe
May 19	7:00 pm	George & Antonina Sztuk †
May 20	3:15 pm—(Seasons HR) 6:00 pm	Lyle Needham † Gail Lutmer †
May 21	9:15 am	Austin Howe
May 22	9:15 am	“Ad Intentionem Dantis”
May 23	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Diane Lyons † Theresa Fallows †
May 24	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Our Parish Darlene Gillis † Carolyn Kuziw †
May 25	9:00 am	Nola Becthold †
May 26	7:00 pm	Doug Mowat †
May 27	3:30 pm—(The Manor) 6:00 pm	Allan Fath † Roy McLean †
May 28	9:15 am	Jesu & Renita
May 29	9:15 am	Rosalynn Schaefer
May 30	9:00 am 5:00 pm	George & Antonina Sztuk † Our Parish
May 31	9:00 am—(Vulcan) 11:00 am 5:00 pm	“Ad Intentionem Dantis” Cecilia Bleile † Carolyn Kuziw †



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