



# St. Francis De Sales and St. Andrew Parish **BULLETIN**



Roman Catholic Parish  
HIGH RIVER - VULCAN, AB

3 MAY 2026



## 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

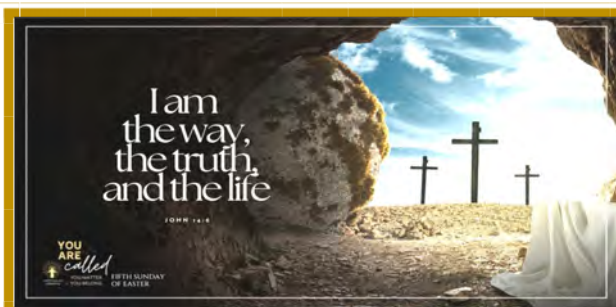
Monday - Saturday: 45 minutes before Masses

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



# Fifth Sunday Of Easter

May 3,  
2026



## Sunday Readings

**First Reading:** (Acts 6:1-7) The readings from Acts on previous Sundays could easily leave us with the impression that the early Christian community was perfect and knew no wrinkles or conflict. Well, today we discover that is not so; widows were neglected. New questions and dilemmas started to emerge fairly quickly, and we hear today how the early apostolic leaders approach a resolution. Even though the Twelve display inspiring witness and authority, in this situation they resort to the consultation and discernment of the community itself. This approach illustrates the meaning of servant leadership.

**Second Reading:** (1 Peter 2:4-9) When a new church building is dedicated, this passage from Peter's letter is one of the readings that is used. The prayers in this dedication rite reflect the metaphors he uses in this reading --- living, chosen, precious, foundation, corner. These metaphors apply to both the Lord Jesus, and to the church building, but also to the people of God, the Body of Christ on earth. Peter summons all -- including us -- to be built up into a spiritual house, a royal priesthood.

**Gospel:** (John 14:1-12) In typical John-style we hear from the mouth of Jesus the basic building blocks of his true identity, of his life and ministry, and of Christian truth and theology: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." As Jesus takes leave from his disciples and they ask where he is going, he stresses once again who he is -- I AM. Jesus' words are to encourage all disciples to continue believing the God of life.

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



## May – A Month Dedicated to Mary

As we enter the month of May, the Church invites us to turn our hearts in a special way to the Blessed Virgin Mary. For centuries, May has been cherished as a time of particular devotion to the Mother of God, who always leads us closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.

In nature, May is a season of renewal. Flowers bloom, days grow longer, and creation itself seems to reflect new life. The Church places Marian devotion in this season as a reminder that Mary is like a beautiful flower in God's garden, chosen to bear the Savior of the world. Through her humble "yes" to God, salvation entered human history.

Traditionally, Catholics honor Mary during this month with the Rosary, May Crownings, and Marian hymns. These practices are not simply customs of sentiment, but deep expressions of faith and love. When we pray the Rosary, we walk with Mary through the mysteries of Christ's life—His joy, His suffering, and His glory. She never draws attention to herself, but always gently directs us to her Son: "Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5).

In our parish, as we already pray the Rosary, we will also pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary each day after Mass, except on Sundays. This beautiful prayer allows us to honor Mary under many titles given to her by the Church, and to seek her intercession for our daily needs and intentions.

May is also a special opportunity to renew our own discipleship. Mary shows us what it means to listen to God, to trust Him, and to remain faithful even in times of uncertainty. In a world filled with noise and distraction, she invites us into silence, prayer, and reflection. In moments of difficulty, she teaches us perseverance at the foot of the Cross.

Parishes often celebrate a May Crowning, placing a crown of flowers on a statue of Mary as a sign of love and honor. This simple yet meaningful gesture reminds us that true greatness in God's Kingdom is found in humility, faith, and service.

As we journey through this month, let us ask Mary to accompany our families, our parish, and our daily struggles. May she help us to grow in faith, deepen our prayer, and draw ever closer to Christ, who is our hope and salvation.

"Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope..."

## A Parish Reflection on Playoffs... and Patience

- ✦ As many of you may have noticed, the Edmonton Oilers have recently been... practicing the spiritual discipline of humility in the playoffs.
- ✦ Yes, the games have not gone quite as hoped. Pucks have bounced in mysterious ways, referees have been viewed with increasing theological curiosity, and fans have offered prayers that were, let's say, very specific.
- ✦ But perhaps this is a moment of grace. After all, what are the playoffs if not a reminder that *hope* endures, *perseverance* matters, and sometimes we are called to carry our crosses... even when it's Game 6.
- ✦ We are also reminded that true faith is not only cheering when your team wins, but standing by them when they don't—preferably with *snacks*.
- ✦ So to all faithful fans: take heart. There is always next season. And in the meantime, we can practice *patience*, *charity*, and maybe offering up just *one less* comment about the referees.

Lord, grant me patience... but hurry. Amen.

LORD, GIVE US STRENGTH

Peace be with you... and with your team.

PSALM 113

Let your love be upon us, Lord, even as we hope in you

FIFTH SUNDAY OF Easter

## Online Giving



## Parish Website





We are inviting you to be a part of our Flower Fundraiser once again this spring! As usual, there is a great selection of new hanging baskets and potted annuals to choose from.  
**We will receive a commission of 25% of the total sales!**

Here are the instructions for our group. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me. Supplies are limited, plants are in high demand, and this platform is open to other groups as well, so **for best selection, order early!**

The password will be activated and the website will be open for **orders starting on Wednesday April 22nd** and will remain open until May 17th. Do not submit any orders after this date - our group code will be closed at that point and you will not be able to link to our group.

**Please read through all of the instructions below.**  
**The most important step is the GROUP CODE.**

Please ensure that you understand the instructions before proceeding. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Instructions:

- Click or copy the link to find your way to the Greenhouse Effects website: [www.greenhouseeffects.ca](http://www.greenhouseeffects.ca)
- Click "Shop" and find the Fundraising Program.
- Click "Shop Now" and enter **Guest Password: GE126** This will give you access to the online store for ordering.

There are 36 unique Hanging Basket mixes and 75 individually potted plants for you to choose from.

- Once you have made your selections, continue to your Cart. This is where you will enter your **GROUP CODE: Francis26** in the promo code box.

**\* This is very important. The purpose of the code is to link your purchase to our group. The code does not provide any further discount. However, please ensure you complete this step! Thank you!**

- From here you can proceed to Payment. You will go through the usual steps for an online purchase, and be asked for your **GROUP CODE** once more.
- Once you submit your payment you are all ready to go!

Your order will be processed and delivered to St. Francis Church, High River, **for pickup on May 20th, 2026.**

Happy shopping!



## May 3rd to 9th is National Hospice Palliative Care Week

Please join the CWL in **12 hours** of prayer on **Thursday May 7th.**

Each hour, please take a few moments to pray for friends, family and neighbors in our community that are in care.

Let's also remember their caregivers for their dedication, and loving care.



The High River Pro Life meeting will be on **Monday, May 4 at 7:00 pm** at the Medicine Tree Manor.  
**Doors open at 6:45**

All are welcome!



## Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers who love to do gardening to help maintain our flower beds. The weeds seem to multiply!!

**If you are interested, please talk to Therese Driver or contact the church office at 403-652-2203**



# Q&A Session

*With Fr. Mariusz*

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



## **Can a Weekday Mass replace Sunday obligation**

Attending Mass during the week is a great spiritual practice—but it **does not automatically satisfy** the Church's Sunday obligation. The Catholic Church teaches that **Sunday Mass is the “foundation” of Christian life**, because Sunday is the principal day for celebrating the Eucharist and the Lord's Resurrection.

### **Sunday is not “any Mass”—it is the Lord's Day**

The Church does not require Catholics to attend Mass on whichever day is convenient. Instead, she binds the faithful to participate in the **Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation**.

### **Canon law states clearly:**

“On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

And the Catechism underlines why this is non-negotiable:

“The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice.”

So the issue is not whether weekday Mass is good (it is). The issue is whether it fulfills the **specific obligation** tied to **Sunday**, the Church's weekly celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

### **Why Sunday must be treated as a “primordial” feast**

Sunday is singled out in Catholic teaching as the principal day of worship. The Catechism calls Sunday the “foremost holy day of obligation,” and explains that it is the principal day for celebrating the Eucharist because it is the day of the Resurrection.

John Paul II describes Sunday as fundamentally connected to the structure of Christian time and faith:

“Sunday emerges therefore as the natural model for understanding and celebrating these feast-days... making it obligatory for the faithful to attend Mass and to observe a time of rest.”

In other words, the Church is not merely asking for religious routine. She is preserving the **rhythm of salvation history**: Christ's victory over sin and death is proclaimed and renewed **week after week** in the Eucharist.

### **Weekday Mass cannot replace Sunday obligation—except in defined cases**

#### **The obligation is to participate on the day required**

The obligation itself is explicitly tied to **Sundays and other holy days of obligation**.

Therefore, attending Mass on Monday, Tuesday, or any other weekday is generally **not** the fulfillment of the Sunday precept.

#### **A specific exception: the Saturday-evening Mass**

Canon law provides one main exception that is deliberately structured to help the faithful:

“A person who assists at a Mass celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the feast day itself or in the evening of the preceding day satisfies the obligation of participating in the Mass.”

This is why Catholics who attend Mass on Saturday evening for Sunday can fulfill the obligation (assuming they are attending according to the norms).

#### **Another exception: serious reasons make participation impossible**

The Catechism states that the obligation binds **unless excused for a serious reason** (for example, illness) or unless someone is dispensed by competent authority.

If participation in the Eucharist becomes truly impossible due to a grave reason, the Church recommends what to do:



“If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible... it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word... or... devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time...”

So, the Church’s logic is important:

- If you **can** go on Sunday, weekday Mass does not substitute.
- If you **cannot** (grave impediment), the Church provides a pastoral alternative—prayer or a liturgy of the word—rather than treating another day’s Mass as a “replacement.”

### What “counting Sunday” really means for the Church

Catholic tradition insists that Sunday Mass is the heart of the day. John Paul II states:

“Since the Eucharist is the very heart of Sunday... the need to take part in the liturgical assembly.”

And he adds that Sunday is meant to renew remembrance of the Easter mystery:

Sunday is the day on which the Church comes together “in hearing the word of God, in offering the sacrifice of the Lord... by means of prayer, works of charity and abstention from work.”

This is precisely why the Church warns against arrangements that drift away from Sunday Mass when it is possible. For example, guidance for special circumstances (such as the absence of a priest) emphasizes that efforts are meant to preserve Christian Sunday celebration according to tradition, and that the Mass remains the proper way to celebrate Sunday.

And even when Holy Communion is distributed during special celebrations, permission to hold such celebrations on weekdays should not be granted “especially in places where it was possible... to have the celebration of Mass on the preceding or the following Sunday.”

### Pastoral bottom line for families

If you attend Mass on a weekday, you are building reverence and devotion—and that is truly good. But the Church teaches that your weekly Eucharistic responsibility is fundamentally **Sunday-centered**, because **Sunday is the Lord’s Day** and the Eucharist is the Church’s way of celebrating the Resurrection.

So, in practice:

- Plan to attend Mass on **Sunday** (or Saturday evening).
- If a **serious reason** prevents Sunday Mass, do what the Church recommends—liturgy of the word if available, or prayer—rather than assuming a weekday Mass “covers” the obligation.

### Conclusion: Weekday Mass supports you—Sunday Mass fulfills the obligation

Weekday Mass cannot replace Sunday obligation because the Church binds the faithful to participate in the Eucharist specifically on the **Lord’s Day**—the principal day of the Resurrection and the heart of Christian practice.

May this parish take seriously the gift of Sunday: the day when Christ’s victory returns week after week, and the Church gathers to offer the sacrifice of the Lord and renew faith in the Resurrection.



### 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](mailto: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 03 - St. Philip & St. James**

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 04 – St. Marie-Leonie Paradis**

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

### **Tuesday, May 05**

6:00 – 7:00 PM – Confessions  
7:00 – 7:30 PM – Mass  
7:30 – 8:30 PM – Parish Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, May 06 – St. Francois de Laval**

3:15 – 3:45 PM – Liturgy at Seasons HR  
4:00 – 4:30 PM – Liturgy at HR Hospital  
5:00 – 6:00 PM – Confession  
6:00 – 6:30 PM – Mass  
6:30 – 8:00 PM – CWL Executive Meeting

### **Thursday, May 07**

8:00 – 9:15 AM – Confession  
9:15 – 10:00 AM – Mass – Grade 12  
10:00 AM – 9:00 PM – Adoration and Benediction  
7:00 – 8:30 PM – RCIA

### **Friday, May 08 – Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine**

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, May 09**

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  
6:00 – 7:00 PM – 1st Communion Class #5



### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@francisdesaleshighriver.com)

**All are welcome!**



### **SFDS Ministry Schedule May 9 & 10, 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 Anne D.           | *****              |
| <u>Lector</u>         | Tony & Joyce        | K of C                 | Brandt & Rosemarie |
| <u>Choir</u>          | Shelli & Family     | SFDS Choir             | *****              |
| <u>Coffee Hosts</u>   | N/A                 | Couples for Christ     | N/A                |
| <u>Share The Word</u> | N/A                 | Lee & Hannah           | 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<br>5:00 pm                      | Jack Turner †<br>Our Parish                                    |
| May 3  | 9:00 am—(Vulcan)<br>11:00 am<br>5:00 pm | “Ad Intentionem Dantis”<br>Maya Espino †<br>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<br>5:00 pm                      | Susan D’Souza<br>Theresa Fallows †                             |
| May 10 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan)<br>11:00 am<br>5:00 pm | St. Andrew CWL Sisters<br>Our Parish<br>Carolyn Kuziw †        |
| May 11 | 9:00 am                                 | Tim McLean †                                                   |
| May 12 | 7:00 pm                                 | Jack Turner †                                                  |
| May 13 | 4:00 pm (HR Hospital)<br>6:00 pm        | Fr. Mariusz<br>SFDS CWL Sisters                                |
| May 14 | 9:15 am                                 | Michelle Schaefer †                                            |
| May 15 | 9:15 am                                 | Dail Howe                                                      |
| May 16 | 9:00 am<br>5:00 pm                      | Cooper Howe<br>Ronald                                          |
| May 17 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan)<br>11:00 am<br>5:00 pm | Our Parish<br>Wladyslaw Pucala †<br>Carolyn Kuziw †            |
| May 18 | 9:00 am                                 | Donavon Howe                                                   |
| May 19 | 7:00 pm                                 | George & Antonina Sztuk †                                      |
| May 20 | 3:15 pm—(Seasons HR)<br>6:00 pm         | Lyle Needham †<br>Gail Lutmer †                                |
| May 21 | 9:15 am                                 | Austin Howe                                                    |
| May 22 | 9:15 am                                 | “Ad Intentionem Dantis”                                        |
| May 23 | 9:00 am<br>5:00 pm                      | Diane Lyons †<br>Theresa Fallows †                             |
| May 24 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan)<br>11:00 am<br>5:00 pm | Our Parish<br>Darlene Gillis †<br>Carolyn Kuziw †              |
| May 25 | 9:00 am                                 | Nola Becthold †                                                |
| May 26 | 7:00 pm                                 | Doug Mowat †                                                   |
| May 27 | 3:30 pm—(The Manor)<br>6:00 pm          | Allan Fath †<br>Roy McLean †                                   |
| May 28 | 9:15 am                                 | Jesu & Renita                                                  |
| May 29 | 9:15 am                                 | Rosalynn Schaefer                                              |
| May 30 | 9:00 am<br>5:00 pm                      | George & Antonina Sztuk †<br>Our Parish                        |
| May 31 | 9:00 am—(Vulcan)<br>11:00 am<br>5:00 pm | “Ad Intentionem Dantis”<br>Cecilia Bleile †<br>Carolyn Kuziw † |



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online booking. <http://vcmedicalclinic.ca/>

**DARLENE BEUTLER**

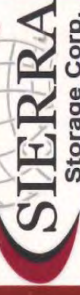
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