

4th Sunday of Lent

March 25 and 26, 2017

First Reading: (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13) God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel—as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind. The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin" he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

Second Reading: (Ephesians 5: 1-8-14) "The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light"—trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

Gospel: (John 9: 1-41) As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see [Genesis 2:7](#)), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see [John 9:11](#)). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent." <https://stpaulcenter.com/reflections> for more info.

Sunday's Offerings

The offering envelopes for 2017 are ready for pick up in the church hall. If you are new to St. Francis de Sales Parish, and would like Offering Envelopes, please call 403-652-2203 or stop by the parish office Monday – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Thank you for the unity, generosity, support, and hard work of every member of our parish.

Stewardship

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Let your light shine! Be careful to recognize that God is working through you and don't put yourself above the people you have been called to help

Coffee Hosts Needed

A cup of coffee shared with a friend is happiness tasted and time well spent!



We are still in need of coffee hosts for Sunday Masses. All you need to do is make coffee, tea and juice, set out cups and glasses etc., and put the cookies that are **provided by St. Francis de Sales Parish** on plates. Quite simple! You can do this as a single person, a family, or friends!

If this is something you would be interested in, **please talk to Therese Driver after mass, or call her at 403-652-4201**

Ushers & Greeters

We are looking for more people to volunteer to be Ushers and Greeters. If this is something you would be interested in, **please talk to Therese Driver after mass, or call her at 403-652-4201**

Music Ministry

Do you enjoy music? Do you have children or youth who sing around the house? Are you eager to have some fun?



All members of the parish are encouraged to join the music ministry! We have room for singers of all ages and any musician. If you are interested in joining any of the following choirs please call or email Donna Abramson (droseabramson@gmail.com or 403-652-4417)

**Children's Choir: Grades 1-6,
Youth Choir: Grades 7-12,
Filipino Choir, Adult Choir(s)**
Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Upcoming Events in our Parish

*** Sunday, Mar. 26, 2017 – 4th Sunday of Lent

+ Mass at St Andrew's, Vulcan @ 9 am – SFDS - 11:00 am
+ Intentions of people of St. Andrew's and St. Francis de Sales

*** Monday – Mar. 27, 2017 - St. Joseph

+ No Mass – Priests' Day Off

*** Tuesday, Mar. 28, 2017

+ Mass – SFDS – 7:00 pm - Intention – Ann Weston
+ Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, and Rosary 3:00 pm

*** Wednesday, Mar. 29, 2017

+ Mass – SFDS – 7:00 pm – Intention – Brian McNelis ✠
+ Reconciliation – 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
+ RCIA – 7:30 pm

*** Thursday, Mar. 30, 2017

+ Mass – SFDS – 7:00 pm – Intention – Don Chisholm ✠
+ Adoration – 10:00 am – 10:00 pm

*** Friday, Mar. 31, 2017

+ Mass – SFDS – 9:15 am – Intention – Peter Bezemer ✠
+ Stations of the Cross/Soup & Bun – 6:30 pm – CWL

*** Saturday, Apr. 1, 2017

+ Ladies Lenten Retreat – 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
+ Reconciliation – 4:00 – 4:45 pm - Mass – SFDS – 5:00 pm
+ Children's Choir – Sarah & Jay Leading

*** Sunday, Apr. 2, 2017 – 5th Sunday of Lent

+ Mass at St. Andrew's, Vulcan @ 9 am
+ Mass at St. Francis de Sales @ 11 am
+ Donna & Leslie Leading
+ Intentions of people of St. Andrew's and St. Francis de Sales

WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

We welcome all new parishioners to our parish community. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out a "Welcome to St. Francis de Sales Parish" form at Sunday's 'Welcome' desk.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are registered in our parish please be sure to notify us if you are moving to a new home (in town or not) so that we can send any of your parish mail to your new address.

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please have any submissions for the bulletin in by **Wednesday, 12:00 pm noon.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Please remember to **print legibly** the names of the loved ones for whom you are requesting a Mass. Also, if you are making your donation for the Mass request by cheque, please make your cheque out to St. Francis de Sales Parish. **We are now booking dates for those who would like a specific date for their intention.**

HOSPITAL STAY

Be sure to let hospital personnel know that you are Roman Catholic during your stay. This will ensure that you will be visited by the Pastoral Care Team.

PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM The Palliative Care Team is available to sit with the sick of our parish when they are dying. If you are in need of this very important ministry, please contact the Church Office at 403-652-2203.

Liturgical Ministries for Apr. 1 and Apr. 2 – SFDS

MINISTRIES	5:00 PM	11:00 AM
Lectors	Nancy Barton Ann-Marie Smith	Jessieca Riano Brandt Sanregret
Eucharistic Ministers	Norma Cooke Theresa O'Neill	Bae Taylor Bob Bateman Mary Ann Dearing Heather Baldwin Offie Arca Suzanne Baxter
Altar Servers	Eli Baldwin Nate Clark Mell Tumaneg	Gus Alexander Nick Alexander King Resaba
Ushers	Luella Wojcik Maj Wojcik	Bae Taylor Cliff Taylor
Gift Bearers	TBA	TBA
Greeters	Tom Hirtle Terry Michalkow	Suzanne Baxter
Choir	Children's Choir Sarah & Jay Leading	Donna & Leslie Leading
Coffee Hosts	*****	Couples for Christ

Liturgical Ministries for Apr. 1– St. Andrew's

MINISTRIES	9:00 AM MASS
Lectors	Michelee Scott
Eucharistic Ministers	Ray & Millie
Coffee & Church Cleaning	TBA

Rejoice in God's Mercy

Please join us each Wednesday of Lent for Mass
@ 7:00 pm followed by Reconciliation.

In addition to the regular parish schedule, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at parishes throughout the Diocese of Calgary all Wednesdays of Lent from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

March 29, April 5, 12

March 26: Fourth Sunday of Lent

In today's second reading, Paul quotes an early baptismal hymn, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!" In our baptism, God reaches out to anoint us, to heal us, and to make us whole. This overflowing of grace calls us to be children of light and to do great things for God. In confession we allow the light of Christ to expose the darkness in our life so that we can be set free to do God's will. **Action:** *Reach out and touch someone in your life, or a stranger, by performing a random act of kindness.*

Stations of the Cross **Soup and Buns**

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent (with the exception of Good Friday) at 6:30 pm followed by soup and buns. Please plan to join us.

DATE	'SOUP GROUP'
March 31, 2017	CWL
April 7, 2017	Youth & Children's Ministry

Pastor's Blog

Maintenance Update

Now that spring has sprung, we can finally get to work on the roof of the hall which Fr. Ed and the finance council had begun just before I arrived. After consulting a roofing engineer, it was determined that the roof over the church proper also needs work with a few changes so that the roof will be good for a number of years. We are planning to add that to this job subject to diocesan approval.

Additionally, we have been looking at getting new doors and glass for the entrance ways of the church. We have three quotes and found the best one as a local contractor. The doors need replacement for a few reasons. Firstly, the locking mechanism is getting old and is not used any longer (it was current for about 2 years before better technology replaced it). Secondly, the doors and glass have very little R-factor and we are losing a lot of heat during the winter (especially in the office area), and I believe new doors will help our heating costs next winter.

The money for all of these projects are in central fund, so we don't need to come up with the cash in our operations. It will deplete most of money we have in central fund, but not touch the money we have set aside for the building fund (for example, the rectory was bought with money from the building fund). With all these major building projects finished, we should be on track to put any excess funds we receive this year into central fund and build that up for the next set of major expenses (the finance council does not see anything on the immediate horizon). As you saw from last week, we have made small profits over the past few months, so we are on track to make a payment into central fund later in the year if all goes well.

If you have any comments or thoughts on these, please contact Fr. James at james.hagel@calgarydiocese.ca, and I can answer your questions.

Fr. James

***God made you to be the answer
to someone else's prayers.
Keep your eyes open.***

Music Ministry

***Do you enjoy music? Do you play the Piano or Guitar?
Are you eager to have some fun? Then we have the spot for you!***



We are in need of more accompanists for our weekend masses. If you are interested in joining the music ministry, please call or email Donna Abramson (droseabramson@gmail.com or 403-652-4417)

Ladies Lenten Retreat

The CWL council is hosting a Ladies Lenten Retreat on April 1, 2017 from 8:30am to 3pm. Father Malcolm D'Souza is the speaker. Lunch will be provided for \$5.

Please RSVP by March 28, 2017 by emailing Doreen McMillan at cwlsfidsprez@yahoo.com or calling at 403-469-1092.

