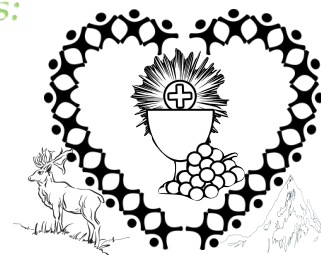


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



The Sunday Mass is broadcast via Zoom from Fernie & Sparwood (see below).

Dear All,

I hope you have warmed up a little. Here in the Elk Valley it has been very cold, as it has been across much of western Canada, and indeed this last week parts of the UK have also seen record low temperatures. The good news is that Thumper doesn't seem to notice; playing in the snow is all that is important. It's a dog's life!

Deacon Stephen

We are delighted to once again be welcoming Deacon Stephen as our preacher this weekend. I do value the fact that those attending our Masses get to hear more than one take on the readings and on the liturgical seasons. Just this week I joined priests in England for a study day and we were invited to look at Mark's gospel from different view points. So it is always good to be reminded that there is more than one way to understand the faith and the scriptures.



Ash Wednesday – This Wednesday, 17th February

We will have two broadcast Masses for Ash Wednesday, but for various logistical reasons, they both have to be evening Masses.

7pm Tuesday 16th – Mass in Sparwood – distribution of Ashes: **8pm**

5pm Wednesday 17th – Mass in Fernie – distribution of Ashes: **6pm**

After both of these Masses there will be the distribution of Ashes for anyone who wishes. We will do this in the same way as we have been distributing Communion after Mass, that is, people will drive up and I will come to each vehicle.

Please note, this will be a the distribution of *Ashes only*, that is, I will not be distributing Communion. So please come prepared to focus on the Ash Wednesday theme of turning back to God. This year the words, “Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return” might echo in a slightly different way. At this time many of us have a heightened sense of our mortality and the frailty of our lives. Our response to this should be an equally heightened awareness of the fact that it is God alone who holds all things in being. With this in mind I invite you to read prayerfully the following passage from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians (1:12-20):

Let us give thanks to the Father,
who has qualified us to share
in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation,
for in him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible.

All things were created
through him and for him.

He is before all things,
and **in him all things hold together**.

He is the head of the body, the Church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead, *
that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of his cross.

Those receiving Ashes will do so like we do on Sundays, and when I come to your vehicle we will, as normal, pray the ‘Our Father’ together, but then I will pray a special prayer for Ash Wednesday and a prayer for the sprinkling of the Ashes.

Elkford will have their Ashes next Sunday after Mass, and anyone else who can’t get to either of the evening distributions can also have Ashes next weekend.

Lent is Coming

I am very excited to let you know that during Lent we are hoping to join up with a parish in my home diocese in Britain for a series of Lent reflections. Obviously there is a time difference between here and Britain, but it shouldn’t be a problem, the sessions will be at 7pm in Britain which here in the mountains is 12noon, and I think this might work quite well. (If you are on Pacific time, that is 11am.). The talks are live via Zoom with questions to follow. There will be two talks a week.

And in the interests of full disclosure, actually this is a course that is being run in Britain by a priest friend of mine who has very kindly invited us to join his parish, thus the majority of people who will be on Zoom will be from ‘across the pond’, and nine of the ten speakers are from the UK; only one is from Canada - that is me!

It will start on Monday 22nd February, so I will put full details in next week’s e-mail. But if you are interested, do see whether you can make this part of your Lent. Each talk is self contained, so if you miss one or two that is not a problem. The ten speakers are all giving reflections on different topics connected with Lent which hopefully will give an eclectic view of the season. So watch this space.





Catholic Women's League

This last week we have had a CWL Provincial meeting and we were trying to organise things for the rest of the year, but really, who knows how this pandemic is going to play out. And one thing that came up is that so many people are missing travelling to different places and the whole experience of being with other people and socialising. But we have to hope and believe that by 2022 we will be able to gather and spend time together.

With this in mind we started looking at the 2022 CWL National Convention, the first national convention since the League turned a hundred years old! And the good news is that the 2022 convention will be in Kelowna, which is within reach of many of us. The venue is the Grand Okanagan Resort, which must be one of the premier locations within Canada.

So if you are a CWL member and you are getting cabin fever and want something to look forward to, then mark the dates – the poster is below. I hope to be there and I am looking forward to feeling a bit spoiled for a few days as we gather in a nice hotel with splendid food and as I meet all the CWL ladies I know from across the country and some priests who are also interested in the strong lay leadership that the CWL gives within the Canadian Church.

Covid Restrictions Order

So as you all know the restrictions on us in B.C. did not change last week, so we are still not allowed to gather in person. And I didn't hear an end-date for this new extension of the order. One day, one day!

And Finally...

And as we go to press I don't yet have any video for the start of finish of the Mass, but I do have an idea ringing around in my head.

With thanks and a promise of prayers,

Fr. David & Thumper



102nd Annual National Convention

Rejoicing in the Vineyard of The Lord!



August 13 - 18, 2022

at the

**Delta Hotels by Marriott
Grand Okanagan Resort**

(250) 763-4500

Reference the Catholic Women's League of Canada National Convention when making your reservation for group rate.

**Visit Father Pandosy Mission
Tour the Okanagan's Beautiful Wine County
View the Beautiful Kasugai Japanese Gardens
Enjoy a Boat Tour of Beautiful Okanagan Lake
and "Much More"!**

1310 Water Street - Kelowna, BC V1Y 9P3



Link to Weekend Masses

To get the link to our 5pm Saturday evening Mass or our 9am Sunday morning Mass please send an e-mail to one of our parish offices with your name and you will then receive the link each week.

info@hollyfamilyfernie.ca

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

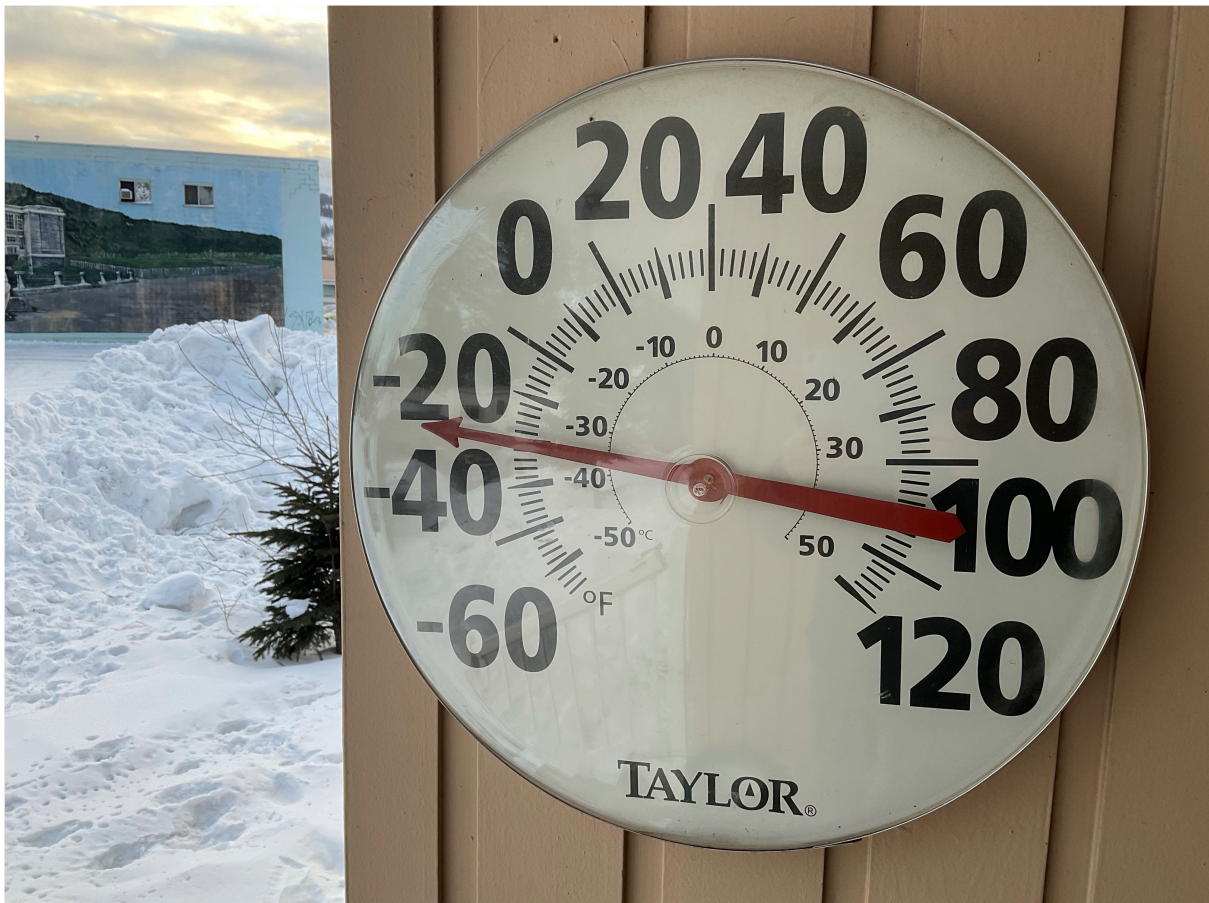
Link to Ash Wednesday Masses

To get the link to our 7pm Tuesday evening Mass or our 5pm Wednesday evening Mass please send an e-mail to one of our parish offices with your name and you will then receive the link each week.

info@hollyfamilyfernie.ca

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

Waiting Room: Please note when you log on you will be put in a “waiting room”.
Hopefully as soon as we see you waiting we will let you in.
If there is a bit of a delay, please just wait;
the co-host or myself will be with you as quickly as we can.



As we go to press it hits minus 35C here in Sparwood. That is a bit cold.