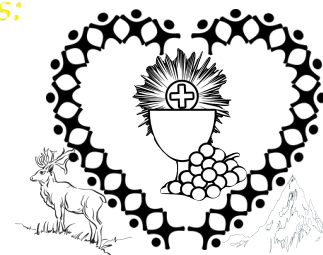


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

24th/25th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Dear All,

Here in the Elk Valley it is very April-ish! By this I mean that one minute we have a snow blizzard and the next it is warm sunshine. I can't wait to get my camper going and to be out there.

Chatting at Mass?

As here in B.C. we go into tighter restrictions, I do wonder what we can do to help. One thought I had in relation to our weekend Masses was to try to get more involvement with everyone. So I was thinking that the use of the 'chat' function might bring people together. We have seen prayer requests – and very particularly feedback after prayer requests – shared in the chat. I have seen the sign of peace in multiple languages, which again personalises it a bit. And then three weeks ago we got the question of how many feet were in the video, and two weeks ago whether it was okay to eat a Tim Horton's bacon wrap on the Friday of Easter week.

I was on a 'webinar' the other week which was done via YouTube rather than Zoom. There was a box that said how many people were also on the webinar, but there was no other information about the other participants and there was no way as a viewer I could take part, and this got me thinking. I really hope that as a participant at Mass you know that your presence is appreciated, not just as part of a head count, but as the unique you!

There is another 'zoom' meeting from Britain that I am regularly part of and the host always starts by saying, "Please enter in the chat where you are". At first I found this a distraction, but after a few sessions I started to look out both for people I knew from of old, and new people I have got to know as being part of this group. *(There is a priest from Belfast who is an absolute hoot and I always hope that he will be in our 'breakaway' group when we have a period of discussion.)* But seeing who is on there is now important to me, and I hope you knowing who else is at Mass is also important to you.



But, of course, we get the same issues as we have at Mass: we don't want everyone to be talking all through Mass! But I am sure that we can use the chat in some way that will be helpful and might bring us together as a community.

So when you first sign on, please feel free – as some are already doing – to put something in the 'chat'. It might be something like "Greetings from Ontario" as we get from Janet, or "It is sunny in Saskatchewan" which Yvette shares, or an update on a prayer request similar to what Fran gives us.

One parishioner did say to me that while they liked the 'chat' at the sign of peace they didn't want messages popping up in front of them all through the Eucharistic prayer! So a certain sensitivity is needed as to when to share, but if you do want to share something do feel free to type things into chat. At both the Masses we do have someone who monitors the chat so hopefully will let me know at the end of Mass anything I need to know, as obviously, during Mass I don't see much of what goes on via chat, but you can always send a private message via the 'chat' co-host.

For CWL Members – St. Joseph the Carpenter

The Provincial CWL are running a small competition "to honour St. Joseph", and this appealed to me. As St. Joseph was a carpenter, the competition is asking people to make something out of wood. You can build something out of wood or carve a bit of wood. Suggestions are to make a small cross and finish it with a bit of carving, or make something else that you can beautify.

I think the reason that this connected with me was that back in Britain when I live by the sea there was a very talented parishioner who would find bits of drift wood and would make crosses out of them. Some were staggeringly beautiful but often so simple. I really am not creative with my hands so I am always in awe at people who can produce beautiful items out of next to nothing.

You have about five weeks for this, but don't delay. Note rule 4. which really says that entries have to be new bits of work not a wonderful creation that you made last year. And I think this is the essence of this, that we do something with wood to remind ourselves of the person of St. Joseph, and in doing so perhaps we might get a little glimpse into the home of Jesus.



As I am not an artist, I am going to try to fit a bit of wood into one of the cupboards in my camper so I can mount a new digital display for the camper's electronics. I know that I won't win a prize for this, but because of this competition, as I do work on it I will try to think of the hands of St. Joseph – *and even the young hands of Christ* – working with wood in a similar way. And I know that I will struggle and get frustrated while doing this (I always do!), but perhaps I might ask for St. Joseph's intercession, not so much to make my work a masterpiece, but more to help me to be patient and not to give up!

So even if you are not a CWL member and don't enter the competition, you might like to think about trying to make something from wood almost as an act of prayer, take the opportunity to think about St. Joseph and Jesus as they worked together. And perhaps we will come to see that Christ is closer to us than perhaps we realise, that the carpenter's son is with us in all the normal parts of our day as well as the exceptional events in life.

The rules for this competition are:

1. *Send me a picture of your completed project by midnight on Monday 31st May 2021. (No late entries will be accepted)*
2. *Send to catherine.m.lheureux@gmail.com*
3. *You can get help from family and friends however you should be the mastermind of the project.*
4. *The project should be done between April 14th and May 31st.*
5. *Have fun.*

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1. *A participation award. Anyone who enters is eligible to win.*
2. *The most unique project*
3. *The best overall entry.*

This contest is to highlight that 2021 is dedicated to our beloved St. Joseph.

Thank you in advance. God bless you!

Catherine L'Heureux,

Spiritual Development chairperson, B.C. and Yukon CWL Provincial Executive.

And Finally...

Is there a parishioner you know who doesn't have a computer or who isn't on the internet? If so, have you thought about printing off this weekly e-mail and giving it to them? I know a number of people already do this. These last two weeks I have started posting a copy of this e-mail to my uncle, and hopefully he will get something out of it, something a bit more personal than what he gets from the local paper. With thanks and a promise of prayers,

Fr. David @ Thumper



Zoom Links

Link to Weekend Masses

To get the link to our two weekend Masses please send an e-mail to one of our parish offices with your name and you will then receive the link each week.

info@holyfamilyfernie.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.