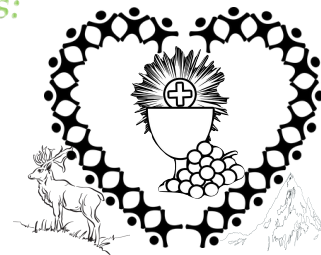


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

21st/22nd August

Dear All,

God is good! Again it has been a busy week and I was wondering not only what I could do for this week's video but also when I might have time to do it. I wasn't exactly panicking, but I was close to it as I racked my brain for ideas. The readings are still John's 'Bread of Life' discourse, so could I film someone making bread? Apparently from start to finish it takes a long time to make bread, so that was out. Then I wondered about popping into the supermarket and their bakery department; would they let me have a little peak into their ovens to see their bread being made? Then I looked at my e-mails and there was one from the Bishop's office saying, "Please make this video available to your parish"! As I say, God is good.

The video is again in Italian, and if we have a few more of these I will feel the need to go out and learn Italian again. And while there will be a lot of subtitles to read, it is interesting that the Vatican has chosen to make this video and push this message... but you will have to tune in to find out more!



No matter how small, love is always grand.

Deacon Stephen and the End of the Bread of Life Discourse

Another ‘God is good’ moment is remembering that I don’t have to preach this weekend as Deacon Stephen has kindly agreed to bring our series of readings from John’s gospel to a close. I did speak to him yesterday about this and he has some interesting ideas to share which I am looking forward to hearing, but again, you will have to turn up or tune in to find out more.

Bishop Christopher

This week I got a note from Bp. Christopher, my retired Bishop in Britain, As part of it he writes,

I am into a period of chemotherapy, following bowel surgery for a rather large tumour in my lower guts. So far I have escaped the worst of the side effects but I have only received two doses. Here’s hoping!!

Let us hold each other in prayer.

God bless, Bp. Christopher

Covid... is Still With Us

I am very conscious that Covid is still with us. As I am double vaccinated, it is not so much the potential danger of contracting Covid that worries me, but rather the issue of having to go into self-isolation. I fear that as things relax people are going to come close to me and talk to me without a mask, and then, if the next day they test positive for Covid, I might be asked to go into self-isolation for a period. Remember, you can have Covid and not have any symptoms.

I mentioned this to a few people and they said, “Oh no, that no longer applies if you are vaccinated”, but the truth is that it does not *necessarily* apply, but in certain circumstances it can still apply. So, for example, as I write this my hay fever is playing up a bit, and this would be enough, along with a close covid contact, to put me in isolation, or at least, until it was determined that it was hay fever not Covid. One might be asked to self-isolate until one gets a negative result from a covid test, and that can take a couple of days.

My fear is that in the next few weeks we have two weddings, and of course, in any week I can have one or more funerals, not to mention the weekend Masses and a baptism or two. I would feel so dreadful if literally just before a wedding, a funeral or even the weekend Masses I was not sure if I would be allowed to preside.

So I say this to ask you to help me ensure I can do my ministry. Out of great kindness people say, “It’s all right, you don’t have to wear a mask when you come into this house.” But if I *don’t* take my mask off I hope you will understand that my aim is the wellbeing of those who are planning their wedding day, or those going through the stress of a funeral, or indeed the wider parish who looks forward to Mass on the weekend. Even if I had to self-isolate for just a day or two days until my status was determined, this could be enough to mean that someone else’s ‘big day’ was put at risk. I hope this makes sense.

And Finally...

No one commented on my joke from last week, so obviously it appealed more to a British sense of humour than a Canadian one. Two people this week have asked me how old Thumper is, and I said, “One, which is just under two.” and had to tell myself not to giggle because I would just look a bit weird laughing at something that wasn’t funny.

Apart from that, I got this shot of Thumper at sunset on one of the smoky days.

With prayers, *Fr. David & Thumper*



Our churches are now open *without* a limit on numbers.
But Covid is still in the population – so caution is needed!



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

Audio Only

So don't forget, if you are off camping and your data plan does not allow you to watch Sunday Mass on Zoom without using up all of your month's data in one go, then you can always call in and listen. Again, e-mail the office for the link for this.

Chat:

Feel free to greet people via the chat when you join our broadcast, and if you are praying for anything particular, do share this with others on the Chat.

Hopefully our "IA - Chat (Co-Host)" will pick this up and pass it on to me - or on a Sunday morning it might be "IA - Back Shot (Co-host)" which is my laptop.

If you don't want everyone to see your message you can send your message directly and it will remain private. I try to scan all the 'chat' at the end of Mass

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.

And for those who are with us in person, be careful:

Please continue to be careful when you are in church. Please sanctify – or do I mean sanitise – your hands, wear a mask when moving about the church as you might come within a 'breath distance' of others, and be conscious that others might have health vulnerabilities that you don't know about. **Everyone still needs to be careful.**

