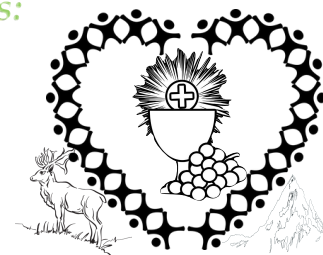


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:*

*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).*

*28th/29th August*

**Dear All,**

This week and next I am playing weddings! We have two weddings coming up in Fernie in the next two weeks. Even under all the restrictions, it is still wonderful to see families and friends gathering together with excitement and joy. And with the Covid rules changing regularly I think anyone getting married at this time is going through an even more stressful process than normal, so our prayers are with Jade and Derek who will be married today (Friday), to Sylvia and Kris who will be married next week, and all who are walking this path.



*Petals scattered down the aisle of the church  
in preparation for today's wedding.*

**This Weekend's Readings –**

**The Beauty of the Law and when it turns Ugly!**

What a wonderful set of readings we have for this weekend. While I love John's gospel it often overwhelms me. In contrast, Mark's gospel can appear simple but after a little digging it is amazingly deep. This weekend's gospel reading is a good example of this. Scripture scholars tell us that this was perhaps one of the later parts of Mark's gospel to be written, or at least, it was one of the parts that was most heavily edited before the final version of Mark's gospel was circulated, and the person who got Mark's original writings (or dictation) and put them together in the form that we now have them saw a need to clarify very exactly this part as it had so much relevance to the Church of that time.

The gospel starts with the question about the laws surrounding washing of hands before eating but quickly opens up to the whole question of what makes us clean and what makes us unclean. On a quick and superficial reading we can say that Jesus did away with all those 'silly' traditions that surrounded eating and what food people were allowed to eat. But that is only part of the story, because Jesus doesn't so much abolish the law but rather brings it back to what it is there to do, that is, to help people to meet God and come into a right relationship with God.

When I am preparing my sermons one of the places I might go to is the 'Word on Fire' website and Bishop Robert Barron. Many parishioners have said how they like Bishop Barron's podcasts and teachings; I must say, I sometimes like what he says, but there are times when I very much disagree with his theology. So there are weeks I go to him and get good ideas to follow, other occasions I go to him and see more clearly the opposite path that I want to pursue. Having said that, I think this week his podcast is really good and it deals so well with this idea of Jesus both upholding the Law and also moving beyond it.

Below are the links to his podcast, and if that doesn't load on your computer, it is also available at the second address via his website. It is towards the end that I think he is particularly good at making the point about how the Law is there to help not to hinder.

Of course, what Bp. Barron does is not only look at the Gospel for this Sunday but also the other readings, and the first reading this week particularly stresses the beauty of the Law.

If you are reading from a missal, you will notice that the gospel is Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. When I see this my first question is always, 'What have they taken out of this passage?' In most cases I don't like it when we don't read the whole passage but rather miss out bits because Mark put these pieces together for a reason, and here the section missed out is about the abuse of the Law by the Pharisees and is very much a warning to us not to do the same with our Church Law.

Hopefully, if you get time to read all of the gospel passage, that is Mark 7:1-23, and to listen to Bp. Robert Barron you will understand what I am on about. Here are the links:

[https://s194.podbean.com/pb/383e0a4d2f269107e26da26e30f946ce/612701a5/data4/fs95/1224144/uploads/Homily\\_8-29-216gvuv.mp3?pbss=d023026d-35a8-56b4-b1bb-dde5563d621f](https://s194.podbean.com/pb/383e0a4d2f269107e26da26e30f946ce/612701a5/data4/fs95/1224144/uploads/Homily_8-29-216gvuv.mp3?pbss=d023026d-35a8-56b4-b1bb-dde5563d621f)

Or: <https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/homily/the-beauty-of-the-law/33042/>

## **Covid... *new guidelines***

We have now received the new guidelines from the diocese following the change in Covid regulations last week. Basically I think we are already doing everything that the Bishop asks. Bp. Gregory underlines the importance of mask wearing, and also highlights what we mentioned last week about leaving space for other people.

Attending Mass is obviously so important to many, thus some people who might have slight health vulnerabilities might still choose to come to Mass but at the same time try to keep their distance from others, particularly face to face contact even when masked. We all need to be sensitive to the situation of others, so while we might be comfortable talking to someone else at a bit of a distance, or sitting close to someone else, we should always be thinking whether the other person is also comfortable with this. And remember, it is really hard for people to say, "Please, can you move away."



I labour this point slightly because I would hate for someone who might be able to attend Mass to stay away because of fear of over friendliness!?! This is such a difficult balance.

## Thank You to Deacon Stephen

Thank you to Deacon Stephen for preaching last week; it is so good to get a new perspective on things, and so, so good not to have to prepare a sermon every week! We look forward to him joining us again soon.

## And Finally...

Looking through the photos I have taken this week, there is none of Thumper. I didn't have my camera out quick enough when he met a skunk! But thankfully, despite the skunk turning and lifting its tail, neither of us got sprayed.

Thus I have just left my desk to go and find Thumper so I could get a photo of him and shockingly, I found him on the settee! He is not allowed on the furniture! So below is Thumper saying, *"But you were at your desk and you always stay there hours, so I thought you wouldn't notice me being up here."*

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](mailto:info@holyfamilyfernie.ca)

[ElkValleyRC@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

*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 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.***

