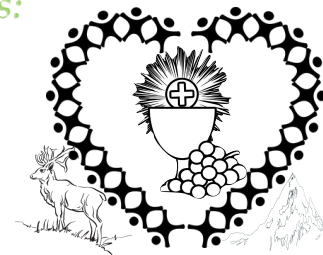


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

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

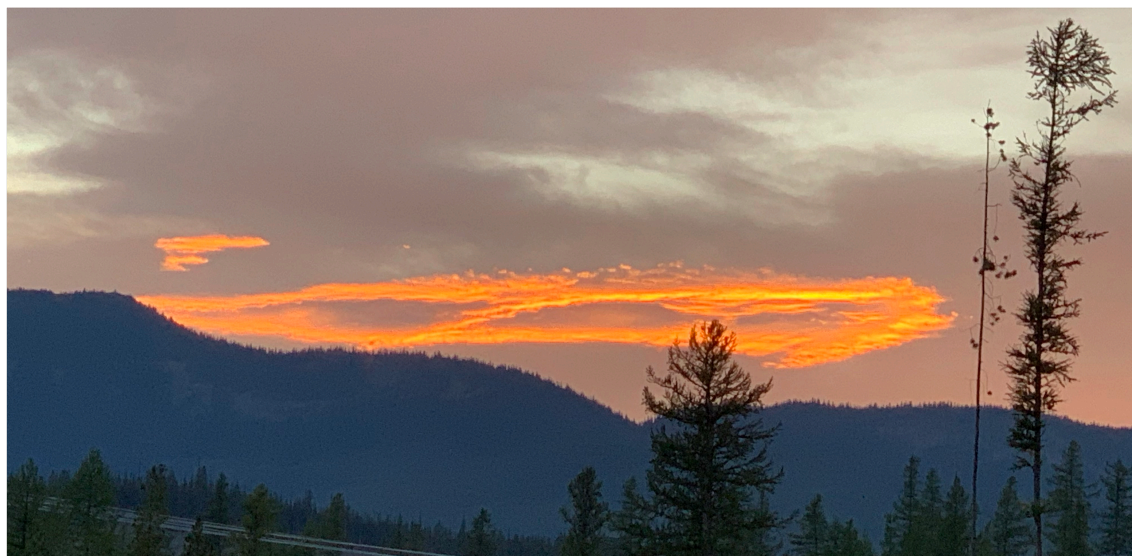
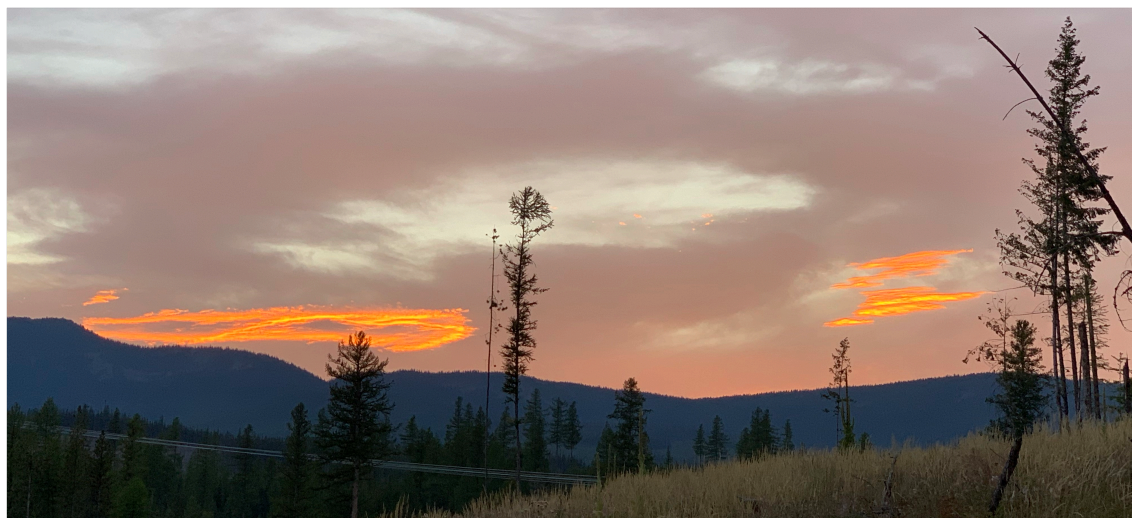


The Sunday Mass is broadcast via Zoom from Fernie & Sparwood (see below).

11th/12th September

Dear All,

I wonder, is God trying to tell me that the parishioners in the Elk Valley are more holy than I realised? Yesterday I was walking Thumper and I looked up and there over the Valley was a halo! Was this a sign of their collective saintliness? Probably if I could have seen further up and down the valley I would have seen similar halos over all the other parts of the parish, and indeed over the places were all the other readers of this e-mail live, but it was just a nice reminder that we are all called to be saints, that is, people who embrace and share God's love as Christ showed to us.



Normality Breaking Through

While I know the number of cases of covid is increasing in some places, yet we are seeing signs of normality breaking back into our church life. This week in Fernie we might have singing again! What a joy. Then on Sunday in Sparwood we will be having a baptism at Mass, and we also might have some new altar servers. For me all of these are signs of normality returning. We can keep normality down for a bit, but slowly it will show its face again and that is happening!

I so wish that my Mum and Dad in England were still alive as they were newly weds living in London during the Second World War, and I would love to ask them about what it was like and how ‘normality’ showed itself in such difficult times.

Last week I mentioned at length the Season of Creation; one line that stayed with me from Sister Margaret Atkins’s talk was, “We are facing multiple current crises; covid is really the least of our current crises, although it is the one we are focusing on the most at the moment.” Sr. Margaret was talking about climate change.

I say all this because it is so easy for us to get very absorbed in our own circumstances; this pandemic is not nice and we wish it will soon be over, yet really it is a slight problem compared with what so many have been through or what so many even today are going through – just ask any female in Afghanistan.

So I would never want to belittle the difficulties that some people are facing or the loneliness or heartbreak that some individuals have been through, but I am sure that part of the way through this is not to be swamped by it, to see that others have also faced great difficulties and come through, and to see that normality can always break back into what we do, indeed it is very difficult to stop normality pushing its way back into our lives!

Catholic Women’s League

We continue to plan for our CWL meetings in October, even if our plans seem to change by the week. At the moment we are looking at having a ‘hybrid’ gathering, that is, a meeting where about half of us will be physically in one place and half will be joining on-line. This has produced quite a bit of excitement as for so long all our meetings have been a hundred percent on line. So this time at least a few will be able to be in the same place at the same time and have that little bit more interaction – even if hugs will be out. Again, for me this points to the fact that we are either overcoming covid or learning how to live with it; a little sign of normality!

Season of Creation

If you didn’t manage to follow the link and listen to Sr. Margaret’s talk on Environmental Theology, I would still recommend it. She speaks with such a soothing voice and about such down to earth things; she is very easy to listen to.



I have listen to the talk three or four times now, and still find it interesting. The link for Sr. Margaret’s talk is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jB6xy-S4A4s>



Federal Election

Also as mentioned at length last week, the federal election is fast approaching. I have to say, the more I hear the more I don’t want to vote for any party, they all disappoint in one way or another! But if I don’t vote, then really I can’t complain about the result! And as we have a ‘first past the post’ system in Canada, if I make a protest vote by spoiling my ballot or voting for someone who clearly won’t get

in, then again I suppose I shouldn’t complain. A helpful link might be:

<https://catholicconscience.org/canada/platform/>

And Finally...

Would you believe it, this week I found Thumper on my bed! I said, “Thumper! I hope you are not sleeping on my bed?” to which he answered, “No, I am just guarding it for you until you need it again.”

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 driving on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning you can listen to Mass while you drive! (But please, if you are the driver then when you are praying don't close your eyes or try to kneel, rather show your love of God and neighbour by concentrating on the road at all times.)

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 "1A - 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.**

