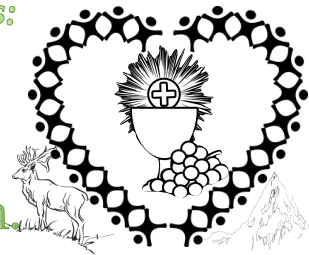


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

22nd/23rd January 2022

Dear All,

When it comes to the readings a Mass, I regularly feel that I don't give the second reading – *most commonly from St. Paul* – sufficient attention. There are lots of reasons for this. Similarly last week when I was talking about the 'road map' of the readings up to Lent I looked exclusively at the Gospel readings. So here, to balance this a bit, is a look at the second readings for the next few Sundays.

A Liturgical Road Map – of the Second Readings at Mass – from now up to Lent.

Last week I mentioned the 'journey' that we were making over the next few months as the Gospel readings at Mass take us sequentially through Luke's gospel. I feel that I should also mention the pattern of the second readings we will be having at our Sunday Masses between now and the beginning of Lent as they are beautiful.

Our second reading last week was from chapter twelve of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, and this weekend and for the following five Sundays we will continue with this reading. Basically, we will cover most of chapter twelve, the first half of chapter thirteen and almost all of chapter fifteen. Let me walk you through those in a bit more detail.

Last week we heard,

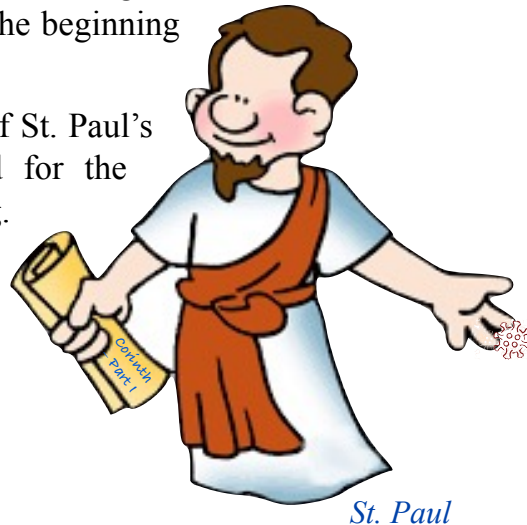
*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,*

but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” (12:4-6)

This week we will hear how all these various parts make up one body. Being one body does not mean that we are all identical, rather we are beautifully different, but in our diversity we are all united in Christ.

*“For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.” (12:12)*

Then at the end of January we will hear St. Paul tell us that love binds us together, and we will hear that very well known passage that is so often chosen for weddings,



St. Paul

*“Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (13:4-7)*

At that point we will jump ahead a chapter and a half to the beginning of chapter fifteen. In doing this we will miss a long section from St. Paul about gifts in the church and the use of them. It is believed that this section, rather than being general teaching, was addressing a particular issue or problem in the church in Corinth. I think there is one key verse that tells us what St. Paul wants us to understand when we use the diverse gifts that God has given to us,

*“Since you are eager for spiritual gifts,
strive to excel in them for building up the church.” (14:12)*

That is to say, whatever gifts we have been given, we know we are using them well when we are using them to build up the church. If a gift pulls us away from the church, or the use of a gift does not reflect the love of God, then we might not be using it in a way that God intended when he gifted it to us!

For the four weekends in February we will read through chapter fifteen of this letter, and it can be seen very much as a continuation of the theme that St. Paul was exploring in chapters twelve and thirteen. Once we have established that we are all one body with diverse gifts, gifts we are called to use for the building up of the Church, then how does that relate to our basic faith? The first weekend in February we will get the answer to this:

*“I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,
and that he was buried,
and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,
and that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve.” (15:3-5)*

This is our basic faith and is “of first importance”. And then the consequence of this will be related over the next three weekends. Firstly, that if Christ has been raised from the dead, that implies that he has dominion over death, so when we are in Christ we too will be raised from the dead.

*“Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.” (15:20)*

The difficulty is that we so often look at our frail, often damaged bodies and wonder what bodily resurrection is all about! *(Speaking personally, I would much prefer to become an angel when I die, with a really neat set of wings so I could go flying around the place – now that is my idea of heaven!)*



But our frailty, our brokenness and weakness is not intrinsic to who we are, it is a result of our separation from God – our original sin – that came about in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve chose to break their relationship with God. But Christ is the ‘New Adam’ who “*died for our sins*”, to restore us to God as He is in God.

*The first man [Adam], being from the earth, is earthly by nature;
the second man [Christ] is from heaven.*

As this earthly man was, so are we on earth;

and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven.

And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man,

will be modelled on the heavenly man. (15:45-48 - Jerusalem Bible translation)

Then just as we approach the beginning of Lent we hear what seems like a crescendo to this section, and one of my favourite parts of this letter to the Corinthians. The logic is, when we – images of the Old Adam – become part of the Body of Christ, we take on Christ’s image and indeed Christ’s own nature.

*When this perishable nature has put on imperishability,
and when this mortal nature has put on immortality,
then the words of scripture will come true:*

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Death, where is your victory?

Death, where is your sting? (15:45-48)



At this point I just want to shout “Alleluia!!!”

So to summarise: while we are all different we are bound together in love to become the Body of Christ, which is the Church.

We should use our diversity to build up the Church. And the faith of the Church is centred on the fact that Christ died and rose again and appeared to the apostles. The result of this resurrection is an end to our lives in the style of the frail, weak and broken Adam and Eve, and the birth through the Spirit of our new lives in the imperishable and immortal nature of Christ. Alleluia.



As an appendix at the end of this e-mail I will include all seven of these readings.

And Finally...

Do you remember when we used to go for a Sunday drive? And we would sing songs as we went along? What a good tradition, and I hope that you still keep up the practice of singing as you drive, Thumper and I do! (*You think I joke? Watch this week’s video!*)

With prayers, *Fr. David & Thumper*

Our churches are open to those *without* any Covid symptoms.
But Covid is still a real threat – thus caution is needed!



Zoom Links – To Our Weekend Masses

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@hollyfamilyfernie.ca

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

Audio Only

Don't forget, even if you have used up all your data for the month trying to look up the second readings at Mass between now and the beginning of Lent, you can still listen to Mass via a phone call to our Zoom link.

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.

Normally there is "IA - Chat (Co-Host)" who watches the chat for any problems or prayer intentions. If you don't want everyone to see your message you can send your message directly and it will remain private.

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; we will be with you as quickly as we can.

And for those who are attending church in person, be careful:

Please continue to be careful when you are in church. Please sanitise your hands, wear a mask at all times, always think of the good of others. As you move about in church 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.



Second Readings Up To Lent

2nd Sunday in OT

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

The Spirit distributes gifts to different people just as the Spirit chooses

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as the Spirit chooses.

3rd Sunday in OT

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

You together are Christ's body, but each a different part of it

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you', nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be

disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

4th Sunday in OT

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

The supremacy of charity

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

5th Sunday in OT

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I preached what the others preach, and you all believed

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you,
the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established;
because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing
exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself,
namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures;
that he was buried;
and that he was raised to life on the third day,
in accordance with the scriptures;
that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve.

Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time,
most of whom are still alive, though some have died;
then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles;
and last of all he appeared to me too;
it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God,
I hardly deserve the name apostle;
but by God's grace that is what I am,
and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless.

On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me,
have worked harder than any of the others;
but what matters is that I preach what they preach,
and this is what you all believed.

6th Sunday in OT

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20

If Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached,
how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead?
For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins.
And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished.
If our hope in Christ has been for this life only,
we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

7th Sunday in OT

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

The first Adam became a living soul; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul;
but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit.

That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit,
and after that, the one with the spirit.

The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature;
the second man is from heaven.

As this earthly man was, so are we on earth;
and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven.

And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man,
will be modelled on the heavenly man.

8th Sunday in OT

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Death is swallowed up in victory

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability,
and when this mortal nature has put on immortality,
then the words of scripture will come true:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Death, where is your victory?

Death, where is your sting?

Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law.
So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat;
keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that,
in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.