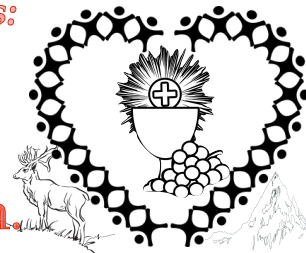


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

16th/17th April 2022

Dear All,

I am starting to write this on Tuesday, so very early in the week in order that we can get it out to you before the big celebrations we will be having over the weekend.

Ukraine

Over the last week the reality of war has become even more obvious, and the grievous nature of a brutal war with troops committing atrocities is heartbreaking.

I am sure that you have read or seen a lot on this subject. Rather than me adding my personal thoughts, I thought it might be better if I simply included a piece that came today from the Vatican news agency:

The suffering of the innocent

Pope Francis highlighted the suffering “inflicted on so many frail and defenceless persons,” and recalled the many civilians massacred, the innocent victims among the young, and the desperate plight of women and children.



“All this troubles our consciences and obliges us not to keep silent,” he wrote, “not to remain indifferent before the violence of Cain and the cry of Abel, but instead to speak out forcefully in order to demand, in the name of God, the end of these abominable actions.”

Quoting from his own encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, the Pope decried the atrocious and grievous events that the world has witnessed, which confirm that “war is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil.”

The Story of Our Easter Services

Now imagine that you were writing a story – *or perhaps a parable* – about a King who loved his people, but sadly, the people had been enticed away from the King by an evil opponent.

Would you tell of how the King would get a large army and go on the attack? Or certainly how the King would use his power and might to correct the situation?



But our story is quite different; the ‘King’ does not come with might but comes to win us back by self-giving love. Riding on a donkey (*or at least a colt – the word πῶλος in Greek doesn’t tell us exactly if it was a young horse, donkey or ass*) the Son of the King comes in humility. He then reveals his love by taking on the role of a servant, symbolised particularly when he washed his disciples’ feet:

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. (John 13:3-5)

Next the Son of the King says that what he is doing is not a ‘one-off’, but rather he wants to establish this as a pattern of self-giving love. And he wants to give himself to people in all times and places, so he can be with them and that his love can actually be *in* them:

the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

The separation between the King and his people had come about when the ancestors of the people had been enticed away from following the King; an evil opponent had come along and told these ancestors that they were equal to the King, that the King’s word was no more important than their words, their whims. So the relationship was broken, the people became blind, death reigned, the people couldn’t feel the love of their King.

To end this separation the Son of the King, who was one with the King and equal in stature to the King, came in the name of the King bringing the King’s message of love. But in a perverse reaction, those who had made themselves equal to God condemned this Son on the grounds that he said he was one with the King:

For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was ... calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

(John 5:18)

The blind killed the one who showed them how to see; the dead killed the one who brought them life; the loveless killed the one who brought them love.

But in the story, the King is not just a King, he is the giver of life. And to show that he came to bring us sight so we can see God, to bring us new life with God, and to bring us into His love, the King showed that he also had power over death, so raised His Son to new life. The Son of the King won His people back, not by condemning them for what they had done – for their blindness, their rejection of life, their lack of love – but by pouring more and more love upon them.

This is our Easter story. It is illustrated in all we do in the Triduum.

But it is not an end, it is a beginning, a *new* beginning. The story continues through Eastertide building up to the return of the Son to the King, and the outpouring of the Kings power and might upon his people. And the foundation of the community that would continue the task of the Son in pouring out God's love in the world.

I invite you, as you celebrate each part of the story, to keep the whole picture in view – all we celebrate proclaims God's love for us, and our call to make love our ultimate value.

Zoom and Communion After Mass

Each of our celebrations from Sparwood and Fernie will be broadcast via Zoom, and the link will be the same one as we use at the weekend (see below). Communion will be distributed after these services to those who turn up in their vehicles.

And Finally...

The paths through the woods are now clearing of snow, and soon the forest service roads will be clear and it will be camping season good and proper.

We are delighted that we have a good number of Baptisms coming up in the next few weeks and there are many other things happening in the parish after Easter, so how can I break it to Thumper that any trip out into the bush will be very short – perhaps just overnight?

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 Triduum Services

Link to Services

To get the link to our two weekend Masses and to our Holy Week services 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

Don't forget, if you don't have the internet but have a phone 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 "1A - 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 if you wish and 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.



The Schedule for Holy Week

Maundy Services:

Fernie – Thursday 14th April at 7pm

Good Friday Services:

Sparwood – Friday 15th April at 12noon

Fernie – Friday 15th April at 3pm

Easter Saturday Night:

Fernie – Saturday 16th April at 5pm

Easter Sunday:

Sparwood – Sunday 17th April at 9am

Elkford – Sunday 17th April at 4pm

All the Sparwood and Fernie Masses will be available via Zoom.
We will be making Communion available after these services.

