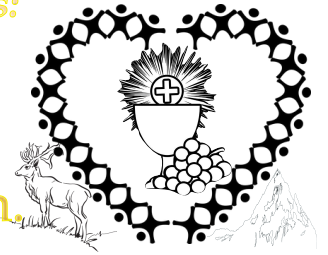


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

**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).

30th April/1st May 2022

Dear All,

It is a big weekend for the Elk Valley as we get our first visit from Bishop Gregory.

Bp. Gregory will be celebrating Confirmation for two of our youngsters on Sunday morning in Sparwood plus giving a First Communion – so those who join us on-line will be part of that. The Bishop will then have a couple of hours in Fernie meeting the people.

(The version of this e-mail sent out from Fernie will include the details of the Bishop's visit as part of the attached newsletter.)

Catholic Woman's League Conventions

This week I will pop off for a couple of days to be part of the Nelson Diocese CWL Convention that is being held in Creston. I am very excited about this, and not just because Creston has the best 'Fish & Chip' shop this side of the Atlantic that does the most wonderful spicy, curly fries! Rather I am mostly looking forward to being with the Ladies of the League from around the diocese.

Then in June we have the Provincial Convention which will be held in Maple Ridge *(and that is near 'Dublin Crossing Irish Pub' that has such tasty food; their turkey gravy actually tastes of turkey, not chicken or just 'gravy taste' but distinctly turkey! It is so good.)* As that is a provincial convention, and I am the provincial spiritual advisor, my duties will spill into a Sunday, so I am delighted to say that Fr. Marian will come back to help out in the Elk Valley for a couple of weekends.

Then we prepare ourselves for the really big event – the National CWL convention in Kelowna *(in a very nice hotel with its own upmarket restaurant).* And that will be in August. So quite a summer of exciting trips.



Dublin Crossing Irish Pub

E-mail Scams

This week I have heard about a number of e-mail scams that are going on at the moment. Goodness knows where these come from, but my guess is that the perpetrators go on line, find some information from the website of a group, organisation or parish, extract any e-mail addresses they can find and then send out e-mails pretending to be the leader of that organisation asking that the member ‘does them a favour’. So be on your guard. No one in the Church will ever ask you to go out and buy a Visa card, an Amazon card or any other gift card.

I myself got caught this week and answered one of these. Someone in leadership within the Church does send out very short e-mails that never start with one’s name, don’t have any personal information in them but are always very functional - usually just one liners. So when I got one asking if I used Amazon I naturally replied. Then, of course, they have an e-mail from you so they know how you sign off and what you put in your e-mails, so they can mimic that as they send out more e-mails in your name. Therefore be careful and on your guard, there are crooks out there trying to deceive you!

Having said that, I am always filled with sadness when I get one of these e-mails. I wonder who it was who actually sent it. I fear that it is some poor soul in Africa or the Far East who is employed to do this for a living by some real crook. One of the scams that was going around was asking for \$600 of gift cards, and my guess is the poor soul who actually wrote the e-mail might get a couple of dollars for each successful scam and the rest goes to the organisers. I could be wrong, but I am sure that exploitation usually goes with dishonesty.

We get a lot of scam phone calls to the church, and I want to say to the person calling, “I feel so sorry for you. Can you tell me, is life so difficult for you that you can’t find another job, with a company that does good rather than evil?” But before you get halfway through a statement like this they usually hang up.

We just seem to be in such an odd world where big, well known companies can endanger children’s health by paying scammers on Facebook and alike to pretend to be new-mums using breast-milk substitutes, and they get away with it (*see insert*). So is it any wonder that others take it one step further and try to scam the rest of us? The internet is an unregulated jungle, so be on your guard!

Rant
Ahead!



The United Nations website reported this week *“that the \$55 billion formula milk industry uses systematic and unethical marketing strategies to influence parents’ infant feeding decisions and exploitative practices that compromise child nutrition and violate international commitments.”*

Source: news.un.org

The Reuters news agency quoted the World Health Organisation (WHO) as saying, *“Breast-milk substitutes companies buy direct access to pregnant women and mothers in their most vulnerable moments from social media platforms and influencers”*. WHO researchers said in the report, *“They use apps, baby clubs, advice services and online registrations to collect personal information and send personalized breast-milk substitutes promotions to mothers.”*

Source: www.reuters.com

Fr. Marian

Most people in the Elk Valley will remember Fr. Marian who came and supplied here last October when I was away on CWL business. He was due to go off for a few months over the winter to meet up with priests that he had worked with during his time as chaplain to the Canadian forces, but very sadly he never got away because he slipped on ice in Nelson and hurt himself very badly, so badly that he had to have his leg operated upon. Even now – *three months after his fall* – he is only able to walk on crutches. So please pray for Fr. Marian, for God’s healing power to be with him, and that he will soon be able to drive and start getting out and about again – and that he will be strong enough to be with us in June!

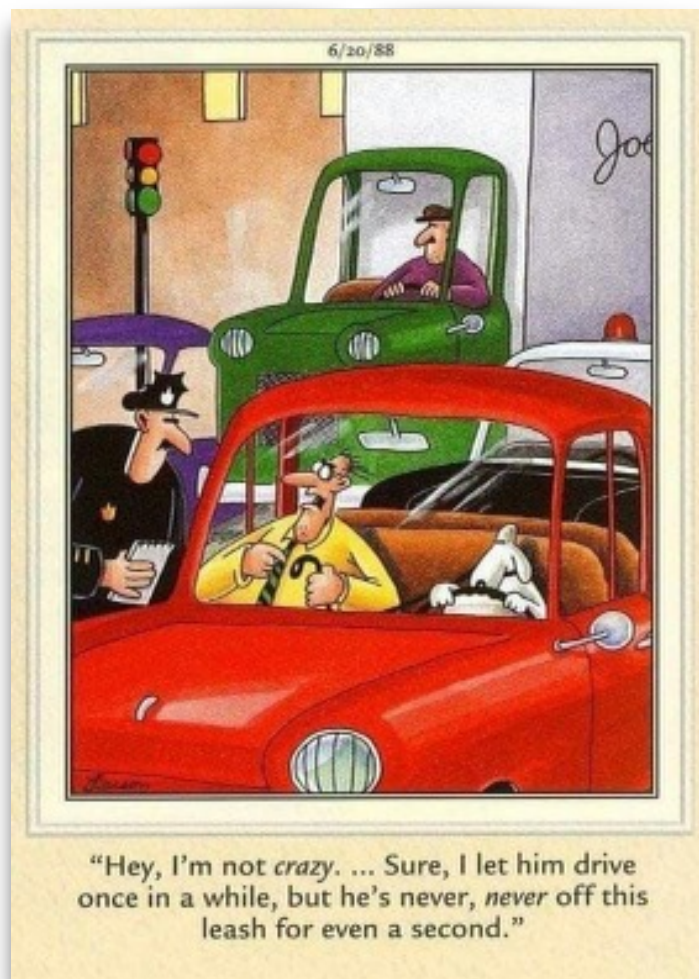
I am sure that we all know others who are suffering from different health issues – *I certainly do* – and we keep them all in our prayers, asking for God’s healing touch.

And Finally...

Getting everything squeezed into this week might mean some more late night driving across the Kootenay’s, so it is a good job that I will have my co-pilot with me – but I will keep him on his leash at all times!

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 Sunday Masses

Link to Our Sunday Masses

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.

