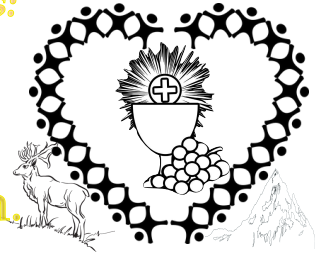


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:*

*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).*



*Two photos taken a year ago for the Ascension*

*28th/29th May 2022*

**Dear All,**

## Happy Feast of the Ascension!

I remember this time last year climbing up the scaffolding that was around our bell tower in Fernie and introducing our 'virtual' Mass from there, saying that I had 'ascended' to the heights of our church to look down on the world. And from that great vantage point having a stunningly beautiful view of Fernie with the snow capped mountains in the background (*see above*). I used to really enjoy my little ventures to different places to introduce our virtual Masses. This year at our weekend Masses I will try to show the continuity between the Ascension and all the other great events in salvation history – now there is a teaser for you!

### The Great Feasts!

Don't forget that over the next few weeks we have a wonderful sequence of feasts coming up:

- 5th June – Pentecost
- 12th June – Trinity
- 19th June – Corpus Christi, and then
- 26th June – back into Ordinary Time



These feasts, along with the Queen's Jubilee, will give us the chance to wear some festive colours at church! (*See last week's e-mail.*)

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Next weekend we will be celebrating the Queen's seventy years on the throne. This won't be so much a celebration of the monarchy as a system of governance, but a recognition of the graces Canada has received by the steadfast leadership given by Queen Elizabeth. I really do feel that the Queen has given us such a consistent and admirable leadership over her seventy years, and it is right to thank God for that.

I don't know if we will sing 'God Save the Queen' next weekend; I will leave that up to whoever is leading the music ministry! But a bit of red, white and blue as part of your attire would certainly be in order.

## Confession – or at least, 'satisfaction' or reparation!

Last week at our Sunday morning Mass in Sparwood I mentioned in passing that 'reparation' was part of the process of reconciliation. I had told a lie, so as reparation was going to make someone a blueberry dessert. A number of people then asked me about reparation and did I mean 'penance'? So I have written a short piece about 'reparation', or as it is called in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 'satisfaction'. I will include this at the end of the e-mail, plus I will include a picture of the dessert that I made!

## And Finally...

We were out in the bush this week and when we got back to where we were parked there was a fresh pile of bear poop. Thumper was dismayed, and was saying, "Who left this?" He wants you to know that he never leaves a mess like this; he always goes into the bushes to do his business. 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 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](mailto:info@hollyfamilyfernie.ca)

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

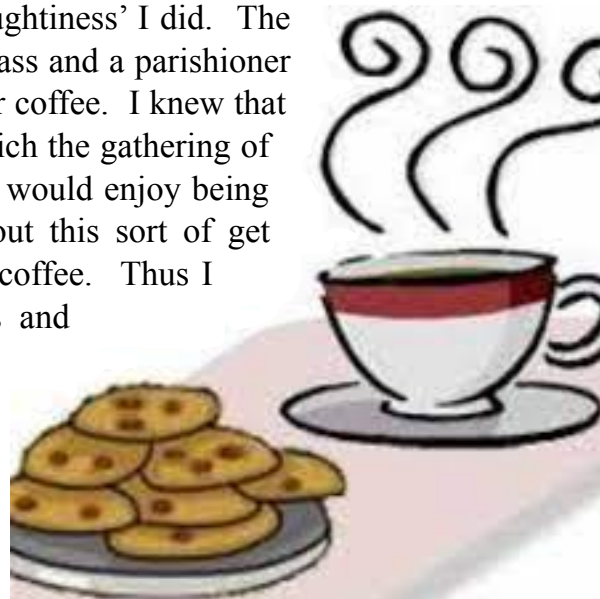
Please continue to be careful when you are in church. Please sanitise your hands, wear a mask if you wish and always think of the good of others. As you move about in church you might come within a 'breath distance' of others, and be conscious that others might have health vulnerabilities that you don't know about.

***Everyone still needs to be careful.***



## Confession – *or at least, the ‘satisfaction’ or reparation part!*

Last week in Sparwood I mentioned a small ‘naughtiness’ I did. The situation was that we were having coffee after Mass and a parishioner walked straight out of church without going in for coffee. I knew that she was a wonderful person and would really enrich the gathering of parishioners at coffee and I also thought that she would enjoy being with people again after such a long time without this sort of get together, so I very much wanted her to stay for coffee. Thus I reminded her that there was coffee after Mass and invited her in, but she declined. I also knew that she had a soft spot for blueberries, so before I had really thought it through and almost as a joke, I said, “But they have blueberry cookies!” She turned around and headed straight back into coffee. Of course, there wasn’t any blueberry cookies, so really what I had said was a lie, and I felt a bit bad about this.



Now the Church says that when we sin we should undergo “conversion through the action of the Holy Spirit: namely, contrition, confession, and satisfaction” (Catechism of the Catholic Church §1448). We are probably all aware of the need for contrition and confession, but when at last Sunday morning’s Mass I said that as an act of ‘satisfaction’ or reparation, I was going to make a blueberry cookie, people seemed confused. So I thought I would just touch on the Church’s understanding of ‘satisfaction’ or reparation in relation to Confession.

### The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) starts its look at confession by looking at the names given to this sacrament. It says,

#### ***What is This Sacrament Called?***

*It is called the **sacrament of conversion** because it makes sacramentally present Jesus’ call to conversion, the first step in returning to the Father from whom one has strayed by sin.*

*It is called the **sacrament of Penance**, since it consecrates the Christian sinner’s personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction.*

*It is called the **sacrament of confession**, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound sense it is also a “confession” – acknowledgment and praise – of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful mankind.*

*It is called the **sacrament of forgiveness**, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent “pardon and peace.”*



It is called the **sacrament of Reconciliation**, because it imparts to the sinner the love of God who reconciles: “Be reconciled to God.” The one who lives by God’s merciful love is ready to respond to the Lord’s call: “Go; first be reconciled to your brother [or sister].” (CCC §1423-1424)

I just loved the idea that it is called ‘confession’ partly because it is our confession of a belief in the holiness and mercy of God!

### **Contrition and Conversion**

While many of us will confess our sins because we feel guilty, and we hope that we might be slightly stronger in the future so we avoid such ‘gaffs’ or mistakes, sometimes it is hard to get in touch with the ‘conversion’ part of the process. Being converted means changing, and that is always uncomfortable.

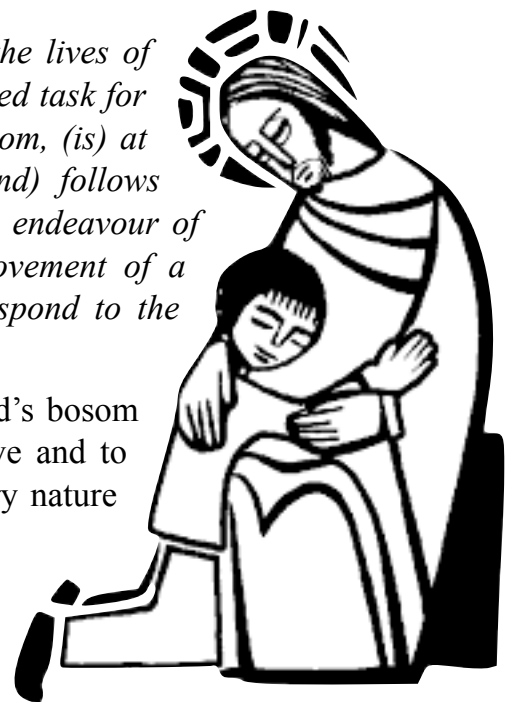
*Look at it this way:* I hate going to the dentist, and when I was a kid we had to go every six months. So when I got there – *even if I had tooth ache* – I always hoped that the dentist would say that no work was needed. I knew he would say, “You should clean your teeth more effectively”, to which I would say, “Oh yes, I will try to do that.” and then I would leg-it out of the place. And it is easy to approach confession in the same way: we go because it is the prescribed time, but we are hoping that actually we won’t have to change or take on any conversion, we accept that we will have to be told off a little and will say that we will try harder, but when it is over we can leg-it knowing we don’t have to go back for another six months.

But I think the Catechism’s description of conversion is quite beautiful. Baptism is called the ‘first’ conversion, and our going to confession as our ‘second’ conversion.

*Christ’s call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This second conversion is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church who, “clasping sinners to her bosom, (is) at once holy and always in need of purification, (and) follows constantly the path of penance and renewal.” This endeavour of conversion is not just a human work, it is the movement of a “contrite heart,” drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first. (CCC §1428)*

Now imagine being clasped in a loving embrace to God’s bosom and then not feeling one’s heart moved to grow in love and to have a desire for a conversion of life! Love by its very nature prompts conversion and it also enables it.

So clasped in God’s love and confessing our belief in God’s goodness, we then come to the last part, the ‘satisfaction’ or reparation. The Catechism states,



**Satisfaction:** *Many sins wrong our neighbour. One must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, pay compensation for injuries). Simple justice requires as much. (CCC §1459)*

So to put it simply, you can't go out and rob a bank and then stop at the church as you flee, go to Confession, and after that then go out and spend all the money that you have stolen with a clear conscience! If one is truly sorry, then of course one will attempt to put right what one has done wrong.

Some time ago we had a youngster who put a brick through one of the windows of the Fernie Family Centre. We managed to get the word out that if the person concerned came and owned up and made amends, then we wouldn't pursue the matter with the RCMP. Someone did make an appointment and came and 'confessed' to breaking the window, and although it was not easy for them, over a number of weeks they paid the full cost of the repairs. And I have to say that I think the person involved grew through this incident, and all I could think of was Jesus' words quoted in Luke 15:7,

*"I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance."*

The Catechism continues,

*But sin also injures and weakens the sinner themselves, as well as their relationships with God and neighbour. Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. (CCC §1459)*

Sometimes, after one has done something wrong, the only remedy for the disorder one has cause is to make a blueberry dessert!

## Our Everyday Lives

Confession is there to bring 'pardon and peace' to the one confessing, and also to try to bring more healing and wholeness to our world, so like all the sacraments, while it acts on the individual, it is there for the good of the whole world.

I cite all this because I think it is important that we realise that Confession is not just a ritual, just something we do; it is a very common sense way for a society to live. The principles that guide our understanding of the process of Confession can actually help us in our everyday lives. If we do something wrong, then a positive way forward is to look at the mistake that we made, own up to it – *saying it out loud to another person* – and take responsibility for it, and then look to see how we can put it right! That is exactly what Confession is. And in everyday life, if we lure someone into coffee with the promise of blueberries knowing that there are no blueberries, then when we see this wrong we have done we should admit it and try to put it right by making sure that that person does indeed have some blueberries.

*As we approach the summer, you might just have a little more time to reflect. Particularly, if you go off into the middle of nowhere, your being 'at one with nature' might well turn your mind to being at one with God, and thus our need for reconciliation.*

## Recipe for “Dessert Réparateur aux Myrtilles”

And incase you are interested, here is how I made a blueberry reparation dessert.

I took three brownies (*I got them cheap because they were on their sell-by date, but that didn't matter for this recipe*). I chopped them up and then mixed them with slightly less than a spoonful of honey. The honey was hard so ten seconds – or was it nine or eleven – in the microwave melted the honey and made the whole brown mixture a thick, very sticky mess (which is what I thought sweet food should be?)

Next I placed this lump of brown stuff in a pretty glass bowl and tried to flatten it down with a spoon, only to discover that after flattening it, as I lifted the spoon all this brown stodgy stuff had stuck to the spoon and none was left in the bowl. So I got a knife, and I next discovered that this stuff also sticks to knives. So I tried shaking it off the knife only to realise that it doesn't fall nicely back into the bowl but rather it flies around the kitchen. After recovering as much of the mixture as I could, I put it in the bowl and didn't touch it again.

Next I added a layer of yoghurt (*again I found that this was better than whipping cream or similar because it was marked down by a dollar in the store*) and then very carefully, one at a time, accurately place the blueberries on top of the yoghurt. Okay, what I really did was to throw a big handful of blueberries on top of the yoghurt only to discover that once they are on there, you can't move them much as they are now half coated with yoghurt.

Finally, I stuck the words ‘blueberry reparation dessert’ through google translate and asked what it was in French – *that always make something plain sound much more exotic* – and voilà: “Dessert Réparateur aux Myrtilles”!

(As I didn't try it, I don't know what it tasted like, but so far I haven't got a call to the hospital for the lady I gave it to. I will let you know if I get any feedback.)

*Below: the raw ingredients.*

*Right: “Dessert Réparateur aux Myrtilles”*

