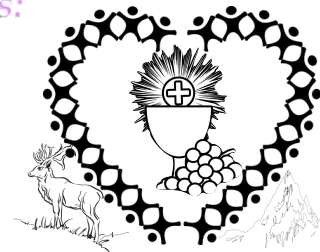


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

26th/27th November 2022



Dear All,

Advent is Here!

Okay, you might be receiving this on “Black Friday”, but in terms of the church, from this weekend and for four Sundays we are in Advent. To be clear, this isn’t Christmas yet, it is our time of preparation for Christmas.

By the time you read this I hope that I will have ordered all the Christmas presents that I am going to buy this year. Not wishing to give away any secrets, but Dad will get the same thing that I have given him every year since Adam & Eve left the garden, and that is in the post to him. Other family members will get some very modest items this year. And I have to say, I am just so pleased to have got that task out of the way. But having said that, my family are obviously very much in my thoughts as we build up to Christmas. So I was thinking about Advent, and as a season of preparation whether I could do something more.

Each year I try to write Christmas cards to my family and a few long term friends, and at the end of each card I always put, “With prayers” and I do try to pray for each person to whom I send a Christmas card... but to be honest, it is a bit of a scramble at the last minute. So this year I thought I would start Advent by praying for each of these people, one a day. First, I went through and made a list, starting with Mum and Dad, and then my siblings, and their spouses, and their kids, and their kids’ kids... and I very quickly had more than twenty-eight, which is the number of days in Advent this year. So the nieces and nephews will have to be grouped in with their spouses and kids for just one day of prayer. Then I kept on thinking of people who absolutely had to be on my list, and it just got longer and longer. So next I grouped my siblings with their spouses, and a few more groupings, and I think I now have a list of twenty-eight groups. And I am going to print each group on a separate bit of paper, put all the bits of paper in a box, and draw one out each day, pray for those mentioned, and then I will stick the bits of paper to the outside of the box. Then, if I do manage to send any Christmas cards this year, I will be able to say, “I *have* prayed for you during Advent!”

I am sure that I will do something else as well, but at least I will have made a start, and that start is preparing for Christmas by praying for those who are my nearest and dearest!

Slip-Sliding Away...

Very many thanks for all the kind messages that people sent me after my little ‘incident’ last week. I had a good bit of colouring on my eye, but really there was no other sign that anything had happened.

I have to admit that last week when I wrote the words, “I am scheduled for a couple of very quiet days” the keyboard seemed to fight back saying, ‘Don’t say that, it won’t happen!’ And the keyboard was right. Very, very kindly one of the clergy of the diocese live streamed all our meetings this week from Kelowna, so the four of us who were missing could still be part of these meetings! So the quiet days went out of the window.

People did send me lovely messages, and thank you to everyone for your kindness, but I think the one I will remember is the person who wrote,

I am offering my services, if you need help hunting down the culprit. When you identify which slippery piece of ice that got you, let me know and I will help rough em up a bit!

So thank you to the person who made that kind offer, it is much appreciated.

While I still have absolutely no memory of what happened, I have worked out the important parts. Firstly, my normal walking shoes – that have decent grip – recently started to fall to pieces because I have had them so long. This meant, as I didn’t want my feet to get very wet and then very cold, I put on my WCB work shoes with the steel toes and the sole that protect you from everything. But, of

Men's Retallack FRESHTECH Tarantula Anti-Slip Hiking Shoes - Grey

★★★★★ 3.9 (42)

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course, because the souls are so hard to resist industrial hazards like nails sticking up in the air, they have dreadful grip on ice. The second element was my gloves: I have loads of gloves around the place, but on this particular day they weren't put back where I thought they should be, so I went walking without gloves. This meant – and I am hypothesising here – that I probably put my hands deep into my pockets to keep them warm. Slippery shoes and hands in pockets meant that when the shoes gave up, the hands weren't available to break the fall, so I used my head instead to cushion the impact.

To this end, I have found my gloves and I have invested in some new “Anti-Slip” shoes (see above)! So I am sure that all will be well.

In Conclusion

As I write on Thursday I am also preparing for a funeral tomorrow in Elkford. Dear Theresa was at Mass last Wednesday and she read the first reading, and then she died on Friday. Now I am sure that God's grace is in there somewhere!

As mentioned, I had hoped to have a nice, easy week when I would get everything ready for Advent, but once more I am rushing into this special season. The meetings in Kelowna included a guest speaker who gave us a number of spiritual talks. Now I have to say that I didn't connect too well with these talks, but the speaker did come up with some good jokes. I will leave you with one of the jokes that he told to the gathering of priests in Kelowna. With prayers.

A priest went into a school and told the young children the story of the Good Samaritan, and how robbers attacked a traveller and left him half dead on the road. And then how a priest walking along that same road saw the injured man but walked by on the other side of the road. The priest asked the kids why the priest just walked by. One young child piped up and said, “Because the robbers had already taken all the man's money?”

Fr. David @ Thumper



Thumper near Fernie Ski Hill where there is lots of snow but not much ice!

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@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.

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.

Those who are attending church in person, **be careful:**

Covid is still about and some people still have vulnerabilities.

Please continue to be careful and continue to 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, so please be conscious that others might have health vulnerabilities that you don't know about.

Everyone still needs to be careful.

