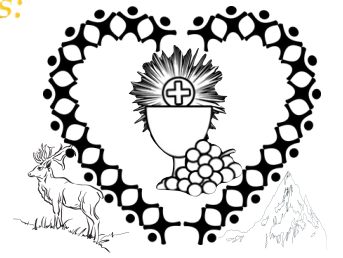


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



The Sunday Mass is broadcast via Zoom from Fernie & Sparwood (see below).



31st December 2022
1st January 2023



Dear All,

Happy New Year – when it comes!

How was your Christmas? Ours was good. At our Christmas services we had a nice crowd (*picture below*), so thank you to everyone who helped with our busy Christmas schedule, particularly the kids who sang.

Our Christmas Dinner

My leg of lamb cooked very nicely, if slowly, so we were a bit late sitting down for Christmas dinner.

What you can't see on the photos (*left*) is the homemade mint sauce, which really gave the lamb a wonderful taste.

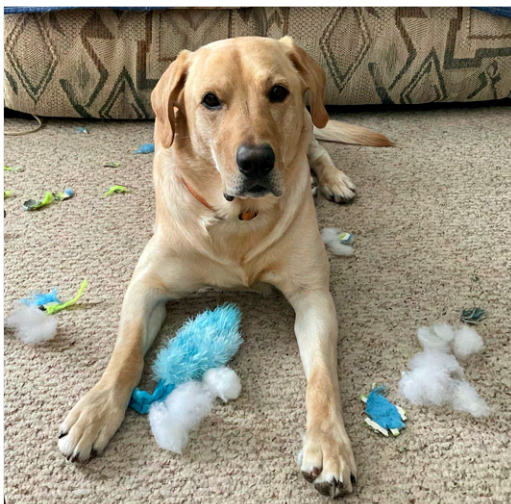




The lamb continued to feed me all week with re-runs of the original idea (*above*), and lamb sandwiches (*right*), and as I write there is a lamb curry on the go, and I think I might squeeze one more meal out of the leg in the form of lamb and pea soup.

Thumper's Christmas

I don't need to tell you what fun Thumper had at Christmas, just look at the mess he made (*see pictures*)! He greatly appreciated all the treats he got and the toys he received for Christmas.



The four stages of life

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You are Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus

A Big Thank You

And from me as well, a big thank you to everyone who sent me greetings, cards or gifts. I feel it is unfair to highlight any in particular, but having said that, I do really want to show you a couple of things that I received.

Firstly, look at this exquisitely painted picture of Thumper on a Christmas decoration (*right*). I am blown away by this, it is so beautiful.

And something else with a picture (*below*), but of a different kind!



Easter and Movable Feasts

Please find below the dates of liturgical feast for the coming year. This will be formally read out at our weekend Masses this week by Deacon Stephen.

And Finally...

This weekend Deacon Stephen will be with us (weather permitting) and he will preach at the Masses. We might also be joined at some point by Fr. John Kellogg, so there will be a variety of clergy for you to see this weekend.

With thanks, *Fr. David @ Thumper*

Year of Our Lord, 2023

Announcement of the Date of Easter and Movable Feasts

*Following a long-established custom of the Church,
pleased be notified of the movable feasts of the coming year, 2023.*

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that,
as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
so by leave of God's mercy
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,
who is our Saviour.

On the twenty-second day of February will fall Ash Wednesday,
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the ninth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the twenty-first day of May will be
the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the twenty-eighth day of the same month, the feast of Pentecost.

On the eleventh day of June,
the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the third day of December,
the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Post Script



Pope Francis with Pope Emeritus Benedict four years ago

Pope Benedict

As we go to print we hear that Pope Benedict is not very well. Our prayers are with him.

Compared with his predecessor, St. Pope John Paul II, and with his successor, Pope Francis, Pope Benedict will not be remembered as being particularly charismatic, or indeed, he didn't always come across as a particularly warm figure. But speaking personally, I do remember him and his time as pope with gratitude.

Pope John Paul II was a poet and an artist, and he wrote very much in that style. While many of his works were noted for their eloquence, they did tend to be long and often needed a lot of work to understand them. They certainly were not always easy to read. In comparison, Pope Benedict's writings were logical, clear and very functional, so for me this made them much easier to digest. And as someone who was expected to study these documents and understand them, for this I am very grateful.

As we have discovered in Britain with our prime ministers, a 'steady as you go' safe pair of hands is sometimes what is needed, and in terms of the papacy, I think this is the gift that Joseph Ratzinger brought to the office of Pope.

We do hold Pope Benedict in prayers at this difficult time. And, of course, we also pray for others who are unwell.

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



Our New Year Masses

Our New Year Masses

Topic: **Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

Date & Time: Saturday – 31st December – at 5pm Mountain time from Fernie
Sunday – 1st January – at 9am Mountain Time from Sparwood

To get the link to watch our two weekend Masses via Zoom 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.

Chat:

Feel free to send Christmas greeting via the chat when you join our broadcast, and if you are praying for anything particular, do also share this with others.

Those who are attending church in person, be careful:

**Covid and other viruses are about
and many people have vulnerabilities.**

At this time of year we are very blessed to have a lot of visitors with us. Some of these people might have vulnerabilities that we don't know about. And at the moment as well as Covid there are other viruses going around – *the normal winter colds* – but this year they might be slightly more problematic because many people haven't been exposed to colds and flu for a few years. So 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. This is particularly important as we move about the church before Mass, at Communion and at the end of Mass. If someone wants a bit of space, we have a lot of it in our churches, so please be respectful.

Everyone still needs to be careful.

