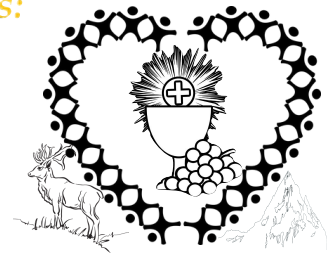


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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

7th /8th January 2023



Dear All,

Happy Feast of the Epiphany



The word 'Epiphany' comes from both Latin and Greek sources. In Greek it means "appearance, coming into view, manifestation".

As I will say at the start of Mass this weekend, on this feast we remember how the Magi or 'wise men' came to see the child Jesus. But the significance of this day goes beyond some individuals visiting Jesus, however noble they might have been. Their arrival symbolises the coming of people from outside Jesus' own community, people who figuratively represent the rest of the world – *that is, you and me* – who come to adore the new-born King because He is not just the King of the Jews, He is a light for everyone, a King for everyone.

Yet the arrival of the Magi is just one 'epiphany'; traditionally Christ's baptism in the Jordan is also called an 'epiphany', the first miracle in John's gospel – the turning of water into wine – is another epiphany because the gospel writer says, "*Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.*" (John 2:11). Indeed, whenever we manifest Christ's light in the world it can be said to be an epiphany.

So we are called to search for the epiphanies that God provides as well as striving to be God's epiphany to others.

Pope Benedict RIP

In a letter published on 8th February last year, Pope Benedict reflected upon his declining health and wrote specifically about his death, saying:

"Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life.

Even though, as I look back on my long life,

I can have great reason for fear and trembling,

I am nonetheless of good cheer.

In light of the hour of judgement,

the grace of being a Christian becomes all the more clear to me.

It grants me knowledge, and indeed friendship, with the judge of my life,

and thus allows me to pass confidently through the dark door of death."

What I liked about this quote was that the first grace that we receive as Christians is to come to know God, but that is not an end but a beginning, the important step is to then translate that into a living relationship with God, a friendship with God.

So when we pray, as well as praising God and asking for the needs of the world, we should ask to know God more fully and to come into a closer relationship with God. If we want to be challenged in 2023 we could ask ourselves how our prayer life brings us to know God better and enables us to become a closer friend of God.



Thumper's Christmas

Since last week Thumper got the rest of his Christmas presents. One was a specially tasty bone; this came attached to a bit of cardboard that described the bone. So I gave the whole lot to Thumper, and yes, he immediately got on with chewing it – the cardboard label that is, rather than the bone.



And Thank You Again

Can I again say a big thank you to all those who have been so kind to me over this Christmas, and indeed through 2022. I am most grateful for all your kindness in all the forms that you share it with me.

And Finally...

On the next page is a blessing for this new year. I can't remember where I found it, but again I liked it.

With thanks,

Fr. David & Thumper



Blessing for the New Year

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pains,
But by strengthening you to bear whatever is to come;

Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy enough to travel any path;

Not by taking challenges from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you how you can make our world
a more pleasant place for everyone.

God's love, peace, hope and joy be with you
throughout the year ahead.

And may God abundantly bless you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Question: What do you call an old snowman?

Answer: A puddle!

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 weekend Masses (*it is the same link for both of our broadcast Masses*)

Topic: **Feast of the Epiphany**

Date & Time: Saturday – 7th January – at 5pm Mountain time from Fernie

Sunday – 8th 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.

