

# Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2023

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH

521 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Fernie, BC

Mailing Address:

PO Box 519, V0B 1M0

Office phone: 250-423-6127

Pastor phone: 250425-6444

Website:

<https://www.holyfamilyfernie.ca>

### Mass Services for the Elk Valley

#### Holy Family Parish

Saturdays - 5:00 PM

Thursday Mass in  
Ferne at 10:30 AM

#### Rocky Mountain Village Ferne

Wednesdays 11:00 AM

#### St. Michael's Parish Sparwood

Sundays - 11:00 AM

Mondays - 9:30 AM

Tuesdays - 7:00 PM

Thursday - Mass in  
Ferne at 10:30 AM

The Holy Rosary is prayed  
30 minutes before  
Holy Mass

#### Lilac Terrace

Sparwood

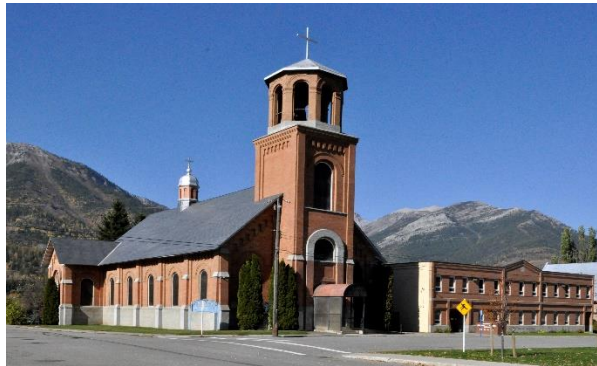
Fridays – 11:00 AM

#### St. Bernard's Mission Elkford

Sundays - 4:00 PM

#### Confessions:

30 minutes before  
Mass or by  
appointment

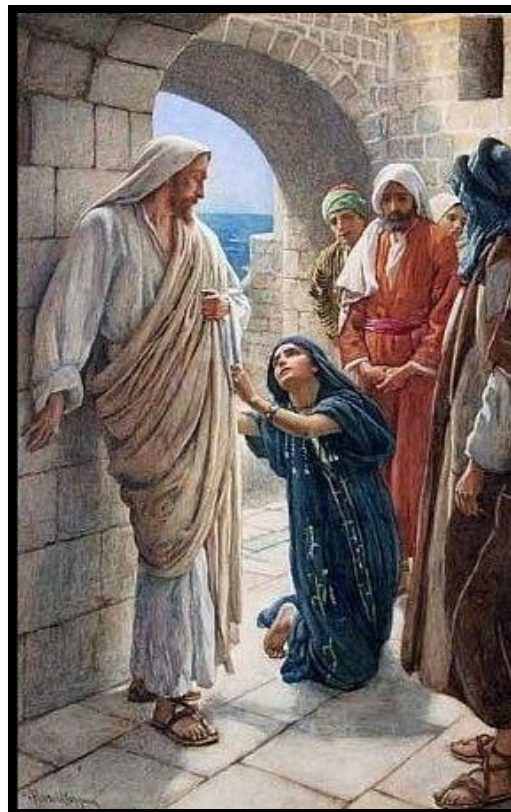


**Pastor:** Father Thomas Kakkaniyil

**Secretary:** Lucrecia Lynch

#### Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



## Welcome

First Reading:

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Second Reading:

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel:

Matthew 15:21-28

Psalms 67

'Let the people praise you,  
O God, let all the people praise  
you.'

“Woman, great is your  
faith! Let it be for you as you  
desire.”

- Matthew 15:28

Faith of the Canaanite Woman: August 20, 2023

Isaiah 56: 1-7; Psalm 67: 2-8; Romans 11: 1-15; Matthew 15: 21-28

We have the incident of Jesus and the Canaanite woman. She has a real need, and she cries out to him. But He refuses her request and compares her people as dogs, and says that he came only for the lost sheep of the House of Israel.

The best way to understand all this is to realize that the readings are speaking about the spread of faith. The reading from Romans refers to the many times that Paul visited various cities. When he visited a city, he preached to the Jews first. If they rejected the Gospel of Christ, Paul then preached to the gentiles. Often, the Jewish people were so inspired by the faith of the Gentiles that they were ready to accept Christianity. Experiencing the openness of gentiles' faith, led many of the Jews to embrace faith as the followers of Christ.

In the Gospel Jesus plays the role of the traditional Jews. To them, the Canaanite Woman would have no claim to the gifts God bestowed on the Jews. Jesus states this in his dialogue with her. But she still receives healing for her daughter. Why? Because she had faith in him. Faith is more powerful than ancestry. This passage in the Gospel occurs right after the passage where Jesus calls Peter a man of little faith. He tells his disciples that this gentile is a person of great faith.

Faith is a raging fire. It spreads from person to person. When we are exposed to a person of faith, our faith grows. As our faith grows, we ignite others with the fire of God's love. As others grow in faith, our faith increases. The Fire is the Fire of the Holy Spirit. Nothing can stop the flame. Nothing can stop the Spirit.

Let me give you an example: many of us are led to faith by our parents. We, in turn, lead our grandchildren to faith. We may teach them meal time or bedtime or morning or evening prayers. Experiencing the faith of their children, parents grow in faith. I am sure many of you have experienced this. Your faith brought others: children or friends to faith. Then their faith will grow us in a greater faith.

When it comes to the Fire of Faith, the Love of God, the Holy Spirit, we have got to allow God to be God and experience His Presence in the Sacraments and the Word of God. As a result, everything that we do and value in our lives will grow us and others in Faith with the same words of Jesus, "daughter, son, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish" (Mt. 15: 28) The Mercy of God is infinitely greater than people's concept of his mercy. Human beings put others in hell if they do not fit into their faith and concepts. In today's Gospel, human beings decided that since the Jews were the chosen people, Jesus should not bother with that Canaanite woman. "Send her away," the disciples said. St. Paul and others had to confront the fallacy that gentiles could not become better Christians than those Christians who had been fervent Jews. Through the grace of God, all of us are Christians following Jesus to the core of our hearts.

If we were to shut others out of our lives due to our own inflated self-worth, our own pride, we would deprive ourselves of being inflamed by the fire of God they have been given by the Holy and Merciful One. St. Paul teaches us, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3: 28) . Jesus sees all that is good within the human heart. He saw the faith of the Canaanite woman. He sees your faith and my faith. He knows how we are trying our best to serve Him. How wonderful is that? He knows us better than we know ourselves. He Loves us more than we love ourselves.

Faith leads to faith. O Woman of Cana, O gentile Christians, your great faith has led us to faith. May we have the humility to experience God's love in others and the grace to lead others to faith.

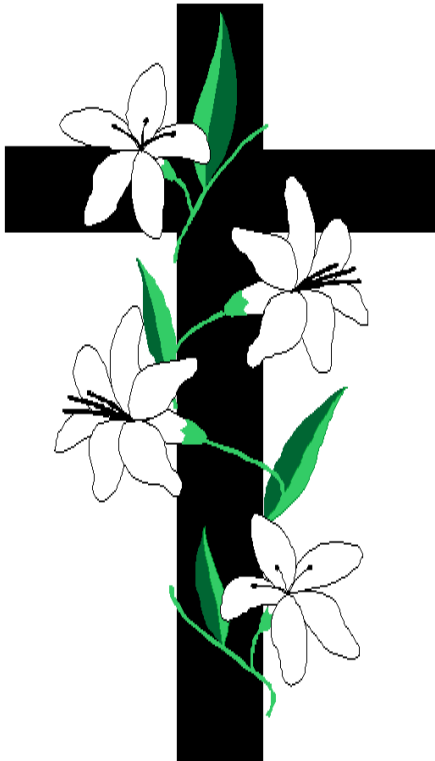
May God bless you!

Fr Thomas

# Weekly Mass Intentions

August 19 – 26, 2023

Saturday	August 19	Mass at 5:00 PM	Intention for M.S.T
Sunday	August 20	Mass at 11:00 AM	Intention for M.S.T
Monday	August 21	Mass at 9:30 AM	Intention for M.S.T
Tuesday	August 22	Mass at 7:00 PM	Intention for Health and Wellness: Arin Martins (Paula & Joe Martins)
Wednesday	August 23	Mass at 11:00 AM	Intention for M.S.T
Thursday	August 24	Mass at 10:30 AM at Holy Family	Reinterment Funeral Mass for Florence Costanzo
Friday	August 25	Mass at 11:00 AM	Intention for M.S.T
Saturday	August 26	Mass at 5:00 PM	Intention for M.S.T



## News and Announcements

Holy Family Parish would sincerely like to thank the person or persons responsible for the repairs to the bricks/parching on the right-hand side of the main church entrance. This was a horrible eyesore to our most beautiful church, prior to the repairs.

The entrance way looks great again.

Please feel free to come forward for a personal word of thanks and acknowledgement and may God Bless



## Holy Family Parish Council Meeting

An important Parish Council meeting is scheduled for **September 6, 2023, at 4:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. This is to discuss parish finances. We ask all parishioners that are interested to come. This is an open meeting all parishioners are welcome to join.



## Parish Fall Tea

**When:** Saturday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Tickets are \$10.00.

Children 5 and under are free.

Please bring your donations between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM on Friday night.

Baked items to the bake sale are appreciated.

Chautauqua, the fall fair sponsored by the Museum, will also be this weekend.

It has been suggested to use or make a hat to wear when participating in events.



## Spots available for this coming school year!

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College is a faithfully Catholic liberal arts college in Barry's Bay, Ontario, offering a three-year Bachelor of Catholic Studies degree. Small class sizes and a strong academic program set students up for success in the classroom and in all future pursuits. Faculty take their Catholic faith seriously, and profess an oath of fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church. A vibrant campus life, men's and women's residence houses, and ample spiritual opportunities create a Catholic culture that forms the whole person. Students build life-long friendships, and often discern their vocations. The tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available. There are still spots available for 2023-2024! Please visit [www.seatofwisdom.ca](http://www.seatofwisdom.ca).



Holy Family Parish would like to inform you of the ongoing fundraising recycling program.

Everyone is welcome to participate and support the Fernie Family Garden. You can drop off pop/juice/beer and water bottles and cans anytime.

Where: by the shed between the Church and the Family Centre.

Thank you kindly for your donations.

## Saint of the Week

St. Bernard of Clairvaux  
Feast Day: August 20



Bernard was born to a devout noble family in Burgandy, France in 1090 A.D.

He was pious as a boy and gifted intellectually, and in college he chose to study theology and Sacred Scripture.

He entered the Cistercians, then a new institute that was a reform of the Benedictines, and he inspired brothers and friends to enter after him. After taking vows his superiors recognized his sanctity and commissioned him to found a new monastery, which became known as the Abbey of Clairvaux.

He was widely recognized for his gifts and faith and was asked to become a bishop., but he declined each time.

He preached the second Crusade in France and Germany, encouraging all to embark on the holy mission. Unfortunately, his Crusade ended in failure, not due to St. Bernard, but due to the vices of some of the members of that Crusade.

St. Bernard died on August 20, 1153.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux was canonized on January 18, 1174, by Pope Alexander the III.

## Finance Report

### Contributions for the week of August 5, 2023

Actual: \$726.45  
Budget: \$1,000.00  
Variance: (-\$273.55)

Total Contributions YTD  
\$37,481.21

Pilgrimage of Faith

As of July 31, 2023

Goal: \$21,650.00

Received: \$5,670.00

Needed to reach goal: (\$15,980.00)

God loves a cheerful giver and a generous heart...thank you.

## Volunteer Schedule

### August 19, 2023

Liturgical Reader  
Angelika Pace

Sacristan  
Volunteer

### August 26, 2023

Liturgical Reader  
Mike Delich

Sacristan  
Lucrecia Lynch

### Church Cleaners

### August 21 – September 3

Lina Campisi and Maria Scarpelli