

Welcome to the Roman Catholic Parishes of the Elk Valley



HOLY FAMILY PARISH FERNIE, BC

501 4th Avenue

Mailing Address:

PO Box 519, V0B 1M0

Parish Office: 250-423-6127

Pastor Office: 250-425-6444

Email: fernien@nelsondiocese.org

Website:

<https://hollyfamilyfernien.ca>

Pastor's Email:

elkvalley.pastor@nelsondiocese.org

Pastor: Thomas Kakkaniyil

Mass Times

Saturday - 4:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM

ROCKY MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

Wed - 11:00 AM

Confessions 30 minutes before Mass
or by appointment.

Rosary 30 minutes prior to any Holy
Mass

Finance Council: Colin Lynch,
Angelika Pace, and Wayne Warner.

Property Manager: John Pallone.

Farish Council Chair: Sharon Hecker

Parish Council Vice Chair: Frank
Galway

ST. MICHAELS'S PARISH SPARWOOD, BC

129 Centennial Square

Mailing Address:

PO Box 167, V0B 2G0

Parish Office: 250-425-2327

Pastor Office: 250-425-6444

Email: sparwood@nelsondiocese.org

Website: <https://stmichaelssparwood.org>

Pastor's Email:

elkvalley.pastor@nelsondioces.org

Mass Times

Saturday - 6:00 PM

Sunday - 9:00 AM

Monday - 9:30 AM

Tuesday 9:30 AM

Thursday 9:30 AM

Lilac Terrace

Friday - 11:00 AM

Mass at Lilac Terrace

The Holy

Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before
Mass.

Confessions 30 minutes before Mass
or by appointment.

ST. BERNARD'S MISSION ELKFORD, BC

800 Natal Road

Mailing Address:

PO Box 167, V0B 2G0

C/O St. Michaels Parish

Parish Office: 250 -425-2327

Website: <https://stmichaelssparwood.org>

Pastor's email:

elkvalley.pastor@nelsondiocese.org

Mass Service

Sunday - 1:30 PM

Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before
Mass.

Confessions after Mass or by
appointment.

Fernie Office Hours

Tuesdays to Fridays

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Bookkeeper

Tuesdays 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Pastor's Message. October 4, 2026

Joining hands in prayer can symbolize a profound union between the believer and Christ. When a Catholic places the **left hand** as representing oneself and the **right hand** as representing **Jesus**, the gesture becomes a quiet sacramental sign of communion. The hands pressed together express the desire that Christ's will and the believer's will be united. It reflects trust, surrender, and companionship: my human weakness held together with Christ's strength. In this simple posture, the Christian acknowledges that prayer is never solitary but always a meeting—my life placed into the hands of the One who guides, heals, and sanctifies. Joining hand together is an expression of **interior devotion, humility, and unity of heart before God**. The gesture is simple, but the theology beneath it is rich.

The primary meaning is **reverence**. In Scripture, the human body is not separate from worship; it is an instrument through which the heart speaks. The Psalms repeatedly show prayer expressed through posture: "Lift up your hands to the holy place" (Ps 134:2). Joining the hands is a complementary gesture—rather than lifting them, the worshipper gathers them, symbolizing recollection and interior stillness. It is a sign that the person is intentionally setting aside distractions and placing themselves wholly before God.

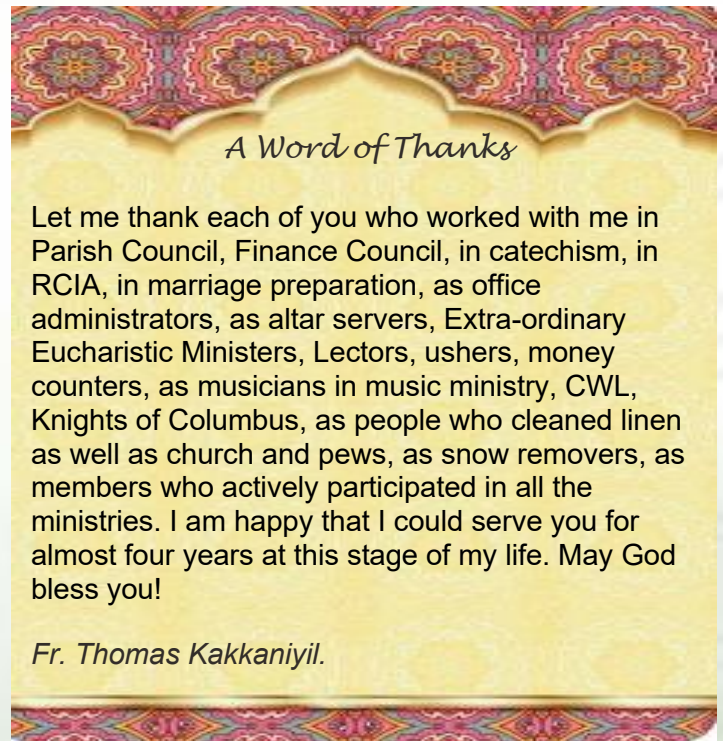
The gesture also expresses **humility and supplication**. Historically, joined hands resemble the ancient posture of a servant placing his hands together as a sign of submission to a lord. In Christian worship, this becomes a sign of offering oneself to God. The faithful stand before the Lord not with clenched fists or open hands demanding something, but with hands joined in peace, surrender, and trust. It is a bodily way of saying, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

A further theological dimension is **unity of the person**. St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that prayer requires the gathering of one's interior faculties—mind, heart, and will—toward God. Joining the hands symbolizes this gathering. The body mirrors the soul's desire to be focused, attentive, and undivided. In a world full of fragmentation, the gesture quietly proclaims that worship is the moment when the whole person is drawn together in God's presence.

There is also a communal meaning. At Mass, Catholics do not pray as isolated individuals but as members of the Body of Christ. The shared posture of joined hands expresses **solidarity in worship**. It is a visible sign that the faithful stand together before the Father, united in the prayer of Christ the High Priest.

Finally, the gesture points to **Christ Himself**. In His Passion, Jesus' hands were bound—an image of perfect obedience to the Father's will. When Catholics join their hands, they imitate that obedience in a small but meaningful way, aligning their prayer with the self-offering of Christ. In this simple gesture, the body teaches the soul: be humble, be attentive, be united, be Christ-like.

Fr. Thomas



Let me thank each of you who worked with me in Parish Council, Finance Council, in catechism, in RCIA, in marriage preparation, as office administrators, as altar servers, Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, ushers, money counters, as musicians in music ministry, CWL, Knights of Columbus, as people who cleaned linen as well as church and pews, as snow removers, as members who actively participated in all the ministries. I am happy that I could serve you for almost four years at this stage of my life. May God bless you!

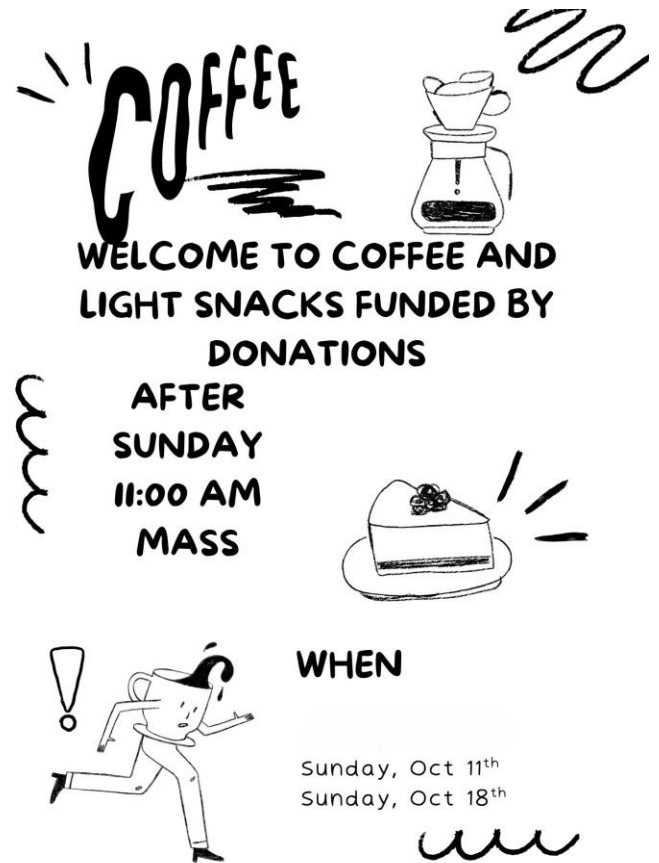
Fr. Thomas Kakkaniyil.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Oct 3, 2026. @ Holy Family for the special intentions of M. S. T.

Sunday, Oct 4, 2026. @ Holy Family for the special intentions of M. S. T.

Wednesday Oct 7 @ Rocky Mountain Village for the special intentions of M. S. T.



Holy Family Recycling Program

Holy Family Parish would like to inform you about the ongoing fundraising recycling program. Place items by the shed.



Everyone is welcome to participate and support Holy Family.

Beer/Pop/Juice/Water

Bottles and Cans

Where: Shed beside the church.

Rosary Rally

Will be held across Canada on **Oct 10, at noon.**

Regina Vinge and CWL members will be hosting, in the library garden. at noon

Everyone is welcome.

*The Rosary Rally is a memorial of the Miracle of the Sun that happened on Oct. 13, 1917, when Our Lady promised a special sign to the chosen children at Fatima Portugal. It was witnessed by 70,000 people!

*Public prayer is very powerful to call down Gods' mercy. Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering.

*To pray the Rosary in the public square is a powerful way to promote the Rosary. "Everyone therefore that shall confess me before men, I will also confess him before my Father Who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32)

Finance Report

Contributions for the week of

September 27, 2026

Actual: \$1,115.11

Budget: \$1,150.00

Variance: (-\$34.89)

Total Contributions YTD

\$53,623.28

e-Transfer for Holy Family

etransfer.hfpfernie@nelsondiocese.org



Thank you
for your donation



etransfer.pof@nelsondiocese.org

Pre-Authorized Giving Form

[POF 2026 Appeal Brochure Fillable.pdf](#)



Total Contributions YTD 2026

As per August 31, 2026

\$9,447.72

POF Goal \$16, 500.00

Volunteer Schedule

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 4:00 PM

Liturgical Reader

Anne Majic

Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister

Volunteer (s)

Sunday, October 4, 2026, 11:00 AM

Liturgical Reader

Marilyn Bruschetta

Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister

Volunteer (s)



Saturday, October 10, 2026, 4:00 PM

Liturgical Reader

Patrice Oscienny

Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister

Volunteer (s)

Sunday, October 11, 2026, 11:00 AM

Liturgical Reader

Angelika Pace

Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister

Volunteer (s)

Church Cleaners

September 28, 2026, to October 12, 2026

Marilyn Gareau & Maria Scarpelli