

Holy Family Parish, Fernie

Pastor: Fr. David John
Secretary: Marilyn Gareau
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Holy Family Parish is organised together with St. Michael's, Sparwood and St. Bernard's, Elkford.

Sunday 11th December 2016 3rd Sunday of Advent

From the Parish...

Reconciliation Service

This Tuesday at 7pm

Our Advent Reconciliation Mass is **this Tuesday** at 7pm. At the moment we have Fr. Jim Ratcliffe signed up to be here with Fr. David to hear confessions after the Mass.

With our tight Mass schedule at the weekend we can't offer confessions after the Sunday Masses, thus if you are intending to go to confession before Christmas please make every effort to come to this special Mass.

Please remember that God already know our good points and our failings – indeed God knows them much better than we know them ourselves. So in confessing our brokenness we are presenting it for healing and strengthening.

Three Opportunities to

Hear or Join in with Christmas Concerts!

Over the next ten days we have three real treats for you.

Fernie Community Choir – This Friday at 7pm

Don't miss out on this; we have the Fernie Community Choir, under the direction of David Passivirta, performing its Christmas Concert at our church this Friday at 7pm. Tickets are on sale for \$5 at the Scotia Bank or you can pay at the door.

Very kindly, the Scotia Bank has agreed to match the funds raised which will go to a local charity.

Nine Lessons and Carols – Next Sunday at the Anglican Church Next Door at 3:30pm

Our Anglican neighbours along with the United Church and ourselves will be holding the service of 'Nine Lessons and Carols' on Sunday 18th December at 3:30pm in the Anglican church next door to us. There will be a potluck supper to follow this service. If you are interested with helping to lead the singing, there will be a choir practice for the service this Wednesday at 5pm in the Anglican church. This should be a lovely service that we jointly provide both for ourselves and for all people in Fernie as a way to prepare for Christmas. So don't forget next Sunday to leave the late afternoon free.

We are still looking for three readers from our church to be part of this service. It is very important that each of the three churches involved is visible through those taking part, so if you can help then please call Rev. Andrea Brennan at 250-430-7970 and leave your name with her.

Catechism Nativity Play and Carol Concert – Wednesday 21st at 3:40pm

The catechism kids are putting on a nativity play and a carol service on the Wednesday before Christmas – 21st December – at 3:40pm. It should last about an hour. Through this the kids hope to raise a bit of money to go to the poor of our world through the "Chalice Gift Giving Programme".

Christmas Mass Times

Our Fernie Christmas Mass times for this year are as follows:

Christmas Eve Family Mass – 5pm on Saturday 24th

Christmas Morning Mass – 9am on Sunday 25th

There will also be a Midnight(ish) Mass in Sparwood at 10pm.

Mass Times

Sunday Masses:

Fernie:

5pm Saturday
9am Sunday



Also: Sparwood –
7pm Saturday &
11am Sunday
Elkford – 4pm Sunday

Weekday Masses:

Holy Family Church, Fernie –
**7pm Tuesday –
Reconciliation Mass**

Rocky Mountain Village, Fernie –
11am Wednesday

Also: (This is the usual schedule but please check the local newsletter)

St. Michael's, Sparwood –
10am Monday

St. Bernard's, Elkford –
11am Thursday

Lilac Terrace, Sparwood –
11am Friday

CWL Christmas Luncheon and

Presentations of Pins – *This Tuesday 11:45am*

The CWL will be having their Christmas luncheon at the Park Place Lodge this Tuesday at 11:45am. After the lunch members will be presented with their CWL insignia and service pins. All members of the CWL and the Parish are most welcome to attend.

2017 Church Envelopes

The 2017 planned giving envelopes are now available in the foyer. If you were not assigned a box, there are extras. Please put your name and mailing address when you first use them so we may update our mailing list. Income tax receipts are given out in February. Thank you.

Musicians and Singers

We could use more musicians and singers to help out with the Christmas Masses. If you are able to help out please contact Rosanna at rosanna1@shaw.ca or text 250-423-7290.

Fr. David writes...

Confessions this Tuesday at 7pm

I wonder if for most people, myself included, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a bit of an enigma. By this I mean that for those of us who have been blessed with having had a really good experience of the grace and peace that can come from bringing our brokenness to the sacrament, it is a delight; but at the same time we struggle to believe that these gifts are truly available exactly because of our brokenness, that it blinds us to God's unconditional love for us... or at least, that God's unconditional love will be communicated by the very human priest who is the minister of the sacrament.

Another fear might be that the cost of bringing our deepest hurts to God might be too great – simply, we don't want to go there. Or we might be telling ourselves that 'everything is okay' and we don't want to admit even to ourselves that in fact we could be a much more whole and peace-filled human being. Or we might simply feel too tired with everything we are already doing to think about growing!!!

In all these cases we are more comfortable with where we are than with the prospect of moving forward. Now hear what St. Paul said to the Christians in Rome:

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6,8)

Or to put it another way, it was not when we were busy growing into full and rounded people that the Father sent Jesus to us, but when we had got stuck and were feeling unable to move forward. This is not only a historical fact but also a truth about the nature of God – God chooses to come to us exactly when we don't think we can do it on our own!

So you are warmly invited to come and celebrate a Mass of reconciliation on Tuesday at 7pm, and then after Mass priests will be available to hear confession. The priests will greet you with the love of Christ and at the end of confession give you the blessing of "pardon and peace". This might be the most valuable gift you will receive this Christmas.



Ministries:

Saturday 17th December:

Eucharistic Minister:

Rob Lecavalier

Reader:

Donald Di Georgio

Greeters:

Willie Oryschak

Sunday 18th December:

Eucharistic Minister:

Sharon Switzer

Reader:

C. Sonntag

Greeters:

Benny Mangone & Sam Caravetta

Church Cleaning for this week:

M. Gareau, I. Gareau, L. Kremen & S. Butler

Church Choir

Practices are held on Wednesdays at 7pm in the church. If anyone is interested in joining the choir please contact Rosanna at rosanna1@shaw.ca or text 250-423-7290.

Finance

Collections:

3rd/4th December \$913.55

Our Pilgrimage of Faith 2016:

Our Diocesan Goal \$11,600.00

Given to date \$ 5,685.00

Church Restoration Phase 4:

Estimated cost \$32,000.00

Donations & Grants..... \$31,000.00

To donate to the Fernie Refugee Fund please go to our website: www.holyfamilyfernie.ca and there is a link on the home page. You will receive a charitable receipt for any donation from Canada Helps.Org