

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 4th December 2016 2nd Sunday of Advent

From the Parish...

New Carpets

The new carpets are in but as we go to press we are not sure that every corner will be finished, so please be careful if you are in the choir loft or anywhere you see unfinished carpeting.

We are still over \$1000 short of our target for this project, so if when you see the new carpets you think you could help to pay for them, then please make contributions in an envelope marked "Carpets" and if you want a tax receipt, please include your full name and address.

Three Opportunities to

Hear or Join in with Christmas Concerts!

During Advent this year we are very blessed to have two concerts and a carol service.

Fernie Community Choir – Friday 16th

The Fernie Community Choir, under the direction of David Passivirta, will be performing its Christmas Concert at our church on Friday 16th December 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 and all this money will be donated to a local charity.

Nine Lessons and Carols –

Sunday 18th at the Anglican Church Next Door

Our Anglican neighbours, 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 on Wednesday 14th 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.

As part of the service we are to provide readers for three of the nine lessons. If you could help with reading then please call Rev. Andrea Brennan at 250-430-7970 and leave your name with her.

Catechism Nativity Play and Carol Concert – Wednesday 21st

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". There will be more details nearer the time, but do mark the date in your diary.

Christmas Mass Times

As published last week, 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, but the exact time for this has not yet been fixed.

Mass Times

Sunday Masses:

Fernie:

5pm Saturday

9am Sunday

Also: Sparwood –

7pm Saturday &

11am Sunday

Elkford – 4pm Sunday



Weekday Masses:

Holy Family Church, Fernie –
9am Tuesday

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

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for
Aldo Scarpelli from
4th December to 10th December.
From Maria Scarpelli & family

Reconciliation Service – 7pm on Tuesday 13th

Just in case you are not here next weekend, please note that our Advent Reconciliation Mass will be on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm. We will be having two visiting priests coming in to hear confessions.

If you can't make this date, then this Monday in Sparwood there will also be a Reconciliation Mass at 7pm. If you write these dates in your diary now then you are less likely to get double booked!

As you think through all the tasks that you need to do in order to make Christmas special, please don't forget going to confession; it might just give you the extra grace that will be more use than anything Santa will bring.

CWL Christmas Luncheon and Presentations of Pins

The CWL will be having their Christmas luncheon at the Park Place Lodge on Tuesday, December 13th at 11:45 am. 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.

Fr. David writes...

New Carpets – I knew nothing of the colour scheme for the new carpets before they were installed, thus I was so delighted when I saw what has been done. It is not so much that I like the colour – *which I do* – but I love the continuity that there now is between the body of the church and the sanctuary.

The history of church architecture is fascinating. In the temple in Jerusalem there were three separate areas: the area for the people, then the sacred area where the altar was, and then the 'Holy of Holies' where only the senior priests were allowed to go which was separated from the rest of the temple by a large curtain. This 'Holy of Holies' was thought to be the one place on earth that God dwelt with us. When Christ died on the cross it was this curtain that was torn in two, signifying that we all now had access to God and there are no barriers between us and God because we are redeemed by the blood of the Cross. (see Ephesians 1:7 and 1 Peter 1:19).

Thus in the early church we think people gathered around a table, and as churches got bigger, around a more formal altar. It was only in the Middle Ages that barriers appeared and the people's area became separated from the table around which we gather. Then interestingly it was the Council of Trent that went a long way to getting rid of these barriers. Thus many old Protestant churches in Europe will still have the separation screens – and in some cases even curtains – but in the Catholic churches they were removed. It has been a long road back to connecting the people with the table of sacrifice they are invited to gather around. Our new carpets are another step on that road: showing a unity of the body of the church with the sanctuary.

All we need now is people to understand that when we come into church for Mass we gather as a family around Christ's table; thus when we come into church the appropriate action is to gather as a family round the altar – that is, not vastly spread out with the majority sitting as far from the celebration as possible. All I can say is, if you ever go to my Mum's house don't even think of sitting at the far end of her very large dining tables away from where she and my Dad sit; if you do she will correct you in a loving way, but very emphatically.

Advent Wreath – We are very grateful to Carol for doing a marvellous job of restoring our lovely Advent Wreath, also thanks to the person who provided the new candles. Nice candles, real greenery and tasteful decorations; a marvellous way to say Christ's light is coming into our world.

Ministries:

Saturday 10th December:

Eucharistic Minister:

Colin Lynch

Reader:

Colin Lynch

Greeters:

Rob Lecavalier

Sunday 11th December:

Eucharistic Minister:

Glenn Carter

Reader:

A. Minto & Billie-Anne Kowalski

Greeters:

Jesse Mong & family

Church Cleaning for this week:

A. Majic, A. Byrne, S. Gris &
M. BeGuzman

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:

26th/27th November \$1,675.20

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*