

Holy Family Parish, Fernie

Pastor: Fr. David John
Secretary: Marilyn Gareau
Church: 501 – 4th Avenue, Fernie.
Parish Office: Family Centre, 521 – 4th Avenue, Fernie.
Post: Box 519, Fernie, B.C., V0B 1M0
Telephone: 250-423-6127
Email: info@holyfamilyfernie.ca
Website: www.holyfamilyfernie.ca



Holy Family Parish is organised together with St. Michael's, Sparwood and St. Bernard's, Elkford.

8th January 2017

Epiphany of the Lord



From the Parish...

Coffee After Mass

Sunday morning coffee after Mass is back, so do join us in the Family Centre next to the church for a nice cup of coffee and a chat on Sunday mornings after Mass.

CWL Meeting – This Tuesday

The CWL meeting will be this Tuesday, 10th January, at 1 pm in the coffee room at the Fernie Family Centre.

Knights of Columbus Meeting – This Wednesday

There will be a Knights of Columbus meeting this Wednesday, 11th January at 7:30 pm in the Fernie Family Centre. All Knights please come if you can.

Rosary after Mass

The Knights of Columbus is having a Rosary after Mass next Sunday, 15th January. There will be a social with coffee and snacks in the coffee room over at the Fernie Family Centre afterwards.

Signing the Development and Peace action card - devp.org/act

Development and Peace writes: You are invited to sign the Development and Peace action card next Sunday, 15th January after Mass at the back of the church. These cards are asking the Prime Minister to recognise the essential role of small family farmers in feeding and cooling the planet, and to ensure that their voices are heard. We need to support an agricultural model that enables these stewards of the earth to live in dignity and feed their communities in a way that respects our common home.

New Church Cleaners' & Greeters' Schedules

There are new schedules for 2017 for the cleaners and for the greeters and they can be found in the foyer. Will all those involved in these very valuable ministries please take a copy.

2017 Church Envelopes

The 2017 planned giving envelopes are available in the foyer. If you were not assigned a box, there are extras. If you take a new box then please make sure you put your name and mailing address on your envelope when you first use it so we can update our records. Income tax receipts are given out in February.

Mass Times

Saturday:

Fernie: 5pm

Also: Sparwood - 7pm

Sunday:

Fernie: 9am

Also: Sparwood - 11am
& Elkford - 4pm

Weekdays:

Tuesday – 9am

Holy Family Church

Wednesday – 11am

Rocky Mountain Village

There are also weekday Masses in Sparwood and Elkford; please see the local newsletters there for the times each week.

Fr. David writes...

Many Thanks & New Year's Resolution **Handout**

Thanks: I would just like to give a word of thanks to everyone who sent me Christmas greetings in different forms. I never open any cards or presents until Christmas Day, so on one of the days between Christmas and New Year I curled up in the warm (with my sore throat) and slowly opened all my cards and read each one carefully. They are all now sitting in my little prayer space so I can remember to hold everyone in prayer. So once more, many thanks for your generosity and kindness.

Handouts: If you didn't get a copy of the handout last weekend – perhaps you left early so didn't pick one up (!) – then please do take one this week. The handout was designed to help inform all of us about how the Church sees our celebration of Mass.

If you are still looking for something to mark 2017 as special and a year you used to deepen your participation in your faith there is another handout this week. This time instead of coming from the American bishops it comes from the Catholic bishops of England and Wales. Again it is not new, this document was written more than five years ago, but it does give clarity to the issue of eating meat on Fridays – at least clarity for Catholics in England and Wales.

Perhaps Europe is a bit more conservative about these things but I must say that I am often shocked when I go to deanery or diocesan events that are held on a Friday and am offered a beautiful big steak. Speaking very personally, I try to avoid meat on Fridays but because I have so many food allergies I don't want this to cause other people difficulty and be perceived as a negative thing by others – “*Those odd Catholics are always difficult*”. I then make a decision between the positive witness value of abstaining from meat and the inconvenience and negative result it might bring to others. If I am in doubt, sometimes I do what we do with feast days in the church, I start my Friday at sundown on Thursday and observe the following twenty-four hours as liturgically Friday, thus I am then free to eat meat after 6pm on Friday evening.

As the document makes clear, this observance isn't about new rules to restrict us which we should be scrupulous about; rather the key words are “rekindled hope and faith” by joining a physical discipline with prayer. This is offered as a traditional way to witness to our faith and also come closer to Our Lord.

Ministries:

Saturday 14th January

Eucharistic Minister:

Rob Lecavalier

Reader:

Lisa Westhaver

Greeters:

Rob Lecavalier

Sunday 15th January

Eucharistic Minister:

Sharon Switzer

Reader:

Anne Majic & Colin Lynch

Greeters:

Benny Mangone & Sam Caravetta

Church Cleaning for this week:

Rosetta Rino, Alice Alyward Nally,
& Annette Harrison

Finance

Collections:

31st Dec. /1st Jan. \$2644.30

Our Pilgrimage of Faith 2016:

Our Diocesan Goal \$11,600.00

Given to date..... \$ 5,775.00

*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*

Suggested Websites:

Diocesan Website:

www.nelsondiocese.org

Catholic Women's League:

www.cwl.ca

Knights of Columbus:

www.kofc.org

Development & Peace:

www.dev.org

Rachel's Vineyard:

www.rachelvineyard.org

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops:

www.cccb.ca

The Bishops of England and Wales made the following statement in 2011. It is what they are asking of Catholics in their region, but it is a reminder and a challenge for all of us wherever we live. You might like to revisit this issue in your life.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

ENGLAND AND WALES

Catholic Witness - Friday Penance

Question and Answer

The Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Britain [in 2010] evoked for many people the spiritual reality of life and rekindled hope and faith: hope in the goodness that is within people and in our society, and faith in God. Even if it is not easily articulated, a spiritual yearning is to be found within most people. This yearning is found also among Catholics who have lost touch with their faith or whose faith was never deeply rooted in a personal relationship with Christ. Wishing to respond to this yearning but perhaps lacking in confidence in talking about their own spiritual life, many Catholics are asking how they can witness to their faith; what can they do to help introduce their faith in Christ to others in simple and straightforward ways?

The Bishops of England and Wales recognise that simple acts of witness, accompanied by sincere prayer, can be a powerful call to faith. Traditional Catholic devotions such as making the sign of the cross with care and reverence, praying the Angelus, saying a prayer before and after our meals, to name only a few, are straightforward actions which both dedicate certain moments in our daily lives to Almighty God and demonstrate our love and trust in His goodness and providence. If these devotions have been lost or even forgotten, particularly in our homes and schools, we have much to gain from learning and living them again.

The Bishops have looked again at the role of devotions and the practice of penance, both of which can help to weave the Catholic faith into the fabric of everyday life. Our regular worship and full participation at Holy Mass on Sunday, the day of the Lord's resurrection, is the most powerful outward sign and witness of our faith in Jesus Christ to our family, friends and neighbours. Sunday must always remain at the heart of our lives as Catholics.

The Bishops also wish to remind us that every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognise that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and common witness.

The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the Bishops' Conference¹. The Bishops [of England & Wales in 2011] re-established the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this to prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake.

¹ Code of Canon Law, Canon 1251

Questions and Answers – *From Fr. Marcus Stock*

Since the Bishops of England and Wales announced this decision in May 2011, a number of questions have been asked. Among these are the following:

Q1. Eating meat is not that important to me and therefore not much of a penance or sacrifice on my part. What then is the value of my abstaining from meat on a Friday?

For some people abstinence from meat will not necessarily be much of a ‘personal’ penance or sacrifice. Indeed, many people do not eat meat. However, to say that we do not eat meat or we dislike meat, or that we ‘prefer fish’, is to miss the point!

What the Bishops are asking us to do, first and foremost, is to make abstaining from meat a common act of penitence; a common witness and sacrifice. This act unites us and reminds us of our personal duty, each Friday, to sacrifice something which is precious to us out of love for Almighty God and out of love for others.

Moreover, it is not just as an individual act of witness that we are asked to undertake Friday penance but as a weekly prophetic witness of the whole Catholic community. It witnesses that being a Catholic requires us, as a community, through our prayer, abstaining and almsgiving/works of charity, to stand alongside those who are in need.

If abstaining from meat is not really a sacrifice for us then we should consider doing something in addition to abstaining from meat. This will keep us united in this common sign of witness and enable us to make our act of penitence a real personal sacrifice and help us to stand in solidarity with those in real need.

Q2. Does this mean that we should eat fish on Fridays?

There is no requirement for us to eat fish instead of meat on a Friday. Our act of abstinence does not mean that we have to eat another particular type of food as the regular substitute for meat on a Friday. The precise goal of penitence is not simply the avoidance of meat or its substitution with another food but relating the external and common act of penance we do to inner conversion, prayer and works of charity².

Q3. What should I do if I am invited out for a meal on a Friday?

If our friends and colleagues value us they will not be offended or upset if we tell them, ahead of time, that we do not eat meat on Fridays. Our choice to observe abstaining from meat in this social setting does permit us though to witness - in an indirect way - that our Catholic faith is important, that we are not ashamed of it. It may also provide us with an opportunity, particularly if we are asked, to explain to our friends and colleagues what the significance of our faith is for us and our lives.

Q4. Are all Catholics obliged to do penance by abstaining from meat on Fridays?

Canon 1252 states that: “The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.”

Those under fourteen years of age, the sick, the elderly and frail, pregnant women, seafarers, manual workers according to need, guests at a meal who cannot excuse themselves without giving great offense to their hosts or causing friction, and those in other situations of moral or physical impossibility are not required to observe abstention from meat; in other words, we should act prudently.

Fr Marcus Stock

General Secretary – Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales

² Apostolic Constitution, Paenitemini, Pope Paul VI, 1966