

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 27th November 2016 1st Sunday of Advent

From the Parish...

Weekday Masses

As this is the last week of the month there will be no Mass at Rocky Mountain Village. Also as the church will be having the new carpets fitted during the week it won't be available for weekday Mass, so there will be no Mass on Tuesday.

New Carpets

The installation of the new carpet in the church will take during this week from Monday to Friday. So hopefully when you come in next week you will see the new carpet.

This does mean that the church will not be usable for Mass or prayers during the week.

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, please make contributions in an envelope marked "Carpets" and if you want a tax receipt, please include your full name and address.

Reconciliation Services – 7pm on Tuesday 13th December

In case you are not here for the next couple of weekends, please mark down that on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm we will be having two visiting priests coming in to hear confessions. This will be part of a special Mass of Reconciliation that evening.

So as you think through all the tasks that you need to do in order to make Christmas special this year, please don't forget going to confession. It might just give you that extra grace that will illuminate Christmas in a way that no number of LED light bulbs can!

There will also be a Reconciliation Mass in Sparwood at 7pm on Monday 5th December. If you write these dates in your diary now then you are less likely to get double booked!

Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 18th December at the Anglican Church

If you don't know about the Nine Lessons and Carols service, it is a wonderful old tradition that we share particularly with our Anglican neighbours but also with many other Christian churches. Basically it is a selection of scripture readings and carols that tell the Christmas story. During the service one is taken first through the Old Testament and then through the Gospels telling how Christ came to be born into our world. These nine readings are then placed between nine traditional carols that illustrate and rejoice in the same story.

The Anglican parish next door to us will be holding this service on Sunday 18th December at 3:30pm and a potluck supper to follow the service. All are welcome. There will be a mass choir practice on Wednesday the 14th of December at 5:00 pm at Christ Church. All are welcome. They are doing this service with us and with the United Church in town. This means that they have asked us to provide three readers for three of the nine lessons. The United Church will also provide three readers as will 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. If you could help with reading then please call Rev. Andrea Brennan at 250-430-7970 and leave your name with her.

Mass Times

Sunday Masses:

Fernie:

5pm Saturday
9am Sunday

Also: Sparwood –

7pm Saturday &
11am Sunday

Elkford – 4pm Sunday

Weekday Masses:

No weekday Masses

– *please see note.*

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

Sanctuary Lamp burns for Mario

Aquila from November 27 to
December 3, 2016.

From Yolanda Aquila

Catechism Nativity Play and Carol Concert

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 make the date in your diary.

Christmas Mass Times

The Parish Council has spent a long time trying to sort out what is the best time for our two Christmas Masses. This year Christmas Day is a Sunday, so it was decided to keep to our normal weekend routine, that is, we will have our Christmas Eve Family Mass at 5pm on Saturday 24th, and our Christmas Morning Mass at 9am on Sunday 25th.

The Parish Council is always looking for feedback from parishioners, so do tell us how these times work for you and perhaps next year we can revisit this. But do please remember that the priest has to also serve two other parishes who also have to be taken into account.

Fr. David writes...

A note about Advent – At Mass I try to mark Advent as a different time from the rest of the year. Normally at Masses during ‘ordinary time’ I tend to always use the same ‘memorial acclamation’:

*We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.*

Then during the seasons I try to change it to one of the other two acclamations. So during Advent we will switch to the second acclamation:

*When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.*

This one of the ways that we will mark out Advent as a different, other ways are that the altar will have purple coverings and the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass will be of the form ‘Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.’

Decorations – Advent is not Christmas, rather it is a time of *preparation for* Christmas. To this end we should try to keep it as a time *before* the celebration and we should try not to pre-empt Christmas. One way of doing this is to start decorating your house this weekend and over the next four weeks slowly build up the decorations until they reach their fullness at Christmas. You could also get the figures of your crib and put them around your house – or at least, around the room where the crib is placed. Then each week (*or each time the grandkids come*) move the figures a bit closer. Mary and Joseph can arrive at the crib on Christmas Eve, then the shepherds can arrive on Christmas Day sing a carol and the Kings shortly after that. This will make the crib more a living representation of the Christmas story.

From Beyond the Parish...

Development & Peace

Development & Peace have written to us saying: While there are many ways to respond to climate change, we believe that agriculture must be at the heart of proposed solutions. Let’s 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, the earth. Sign the Development and Peace Action Card today! Ask the Prime Minister to take into account the vital role of small family farmers in feeding and cooling the planet and to ensure that their voices are heard: devp.org/act.”

Please note, these are the words of Development and Peace’ not the parish.

Ministries:

Saturday 3rd December:

Eucharistic Minister:

Eunice Peterson

Reader:

Cathleen Sonntag

Greeters:

Nellie Dunlap & Hilda Cadorath

Sunday 4th December:

Eucharistic Minister:

Geraldine Rocca

Reader:

Gisele Kitchen & Sandy Carter

Greeters:

Sharon Switzer

Church Cleaning for this week:

Grace Hughes & Regina Vinge

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:

19th/20th November\$1,242.05

Our Pilgrimage of Faith 2016:

Our Diocesan Goal.....\$11,600.00

Given to date\$ 3,535.00

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*
