

SACRED HEART - SAINT LUKE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

SACRED HEART, Spring Valley †
N108 Sabin Avenue

SACRED HEART, Elmwood †
106 West Wilson Avenue

SAINT LUKE, Boyceville
919 Center Street

OUR PASTOR

Rev. Prince A. Raja

Residence

715.639.2741

114 West Wilson Avenue

Mobile 715.505.8506

Elmwood, WI 54740-8603

pastor@svecatholic.org

OUR STAFF

Central Office

S105 Sabin Avenue P.O. Box 456 Spring Valley, WI 54767-0456

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Rebecca Schmitt 715.778.5519

admin@svecatholic.org

Boyceville Secretary: Mrs. Karen Adams

715.643.3081

boyceville@svecatholic.org

Our Mass Schedule for This Week

Monday-Tuesday (9/5-9/6).....NO MASS

Wednesday (9-7).....7:30PM Mass at Elmwood

+Deceased members of John & Clara Lecheler families

Thursday (9-8).....8:00AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Tom Mountin (John and Cindy Sinz)

Friday (9-9).....1:30PM Mass at Elmwood Nursing Home

+Jim Bates (Ilene Bates)

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday (9-10).....7:00PM Vigil Mass at Boyceville

Missa Pro Populo

Sunday (9-11).....8:30AM Mass at Elmwood

+Don Miller (Joe & Laurie Schmitt)

10:30AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Brody Sotona (Wade & Kristi Sotona)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Mass Notice for Week of 9/12-9/16: Fr. Prince will be out of town for a mission appeal in Salt Lake City, UT next week. There will not be masses in our parishes from Monday, September 12-Friday, September 16. Please contact a neighboring parish priest for any pastoral emergency.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary Society: Meets Thursday, September 8 at 7Pm in the Church basement. All ladies of the church are welcome!

Options for Women Comedy Night and Banquet for Life: Tuesday, September 13th at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club, River Falls. The event starts at 5:30pm and includes a silent auction, meal and comedian Mike Williams. The cost is \$40/person. For information call **(715) 425-8539**.

A Heartfelt Thank You from LeRoy Keenlyne: Prayers do come true; God has answered so many on my behalf I feel blessed and thank Him. I returned home 2 months ago after a nearly 4 month hospital stay. I continue to improve each week with therapy. I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who took part in my recovery, to the doctors, nurses and hospital staff.

For prayers offered up by prayer chains, friends and relatives, our church family, the CCD students, priests, and Father Louis who came and prayed over me. Thank you all for the messages and hugs given to my family to relay to me, for all the cards, phone calls and visits, they were a comfort to me, brought me joy, lifted my spirit, and encouraged me to get well. To my wife, children, and grandchildren, very special thanks for your love, being by my side, never given up on me, for keeping the faith and trusting God during this difficult time. Sincerely from my heart to yours, LeRoy Keenlyne.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 6:00-6:45 PM

Boyceville

Sunday 7:45-8:15 AM

Elmwood

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thurs. 8 AM to Friday 8AM
Spring Valley

St. Luke's: No Adoration on Monday September 5th due to the Labor Day Holiday. Adoration will resume on September 12.

Spring Valley Adoration: We are looking to fill 3 hours every other week on Thursday, from 9-10 am, 4-5 pm, and 8-9 pm. Contact Laura Buchal at [715-772-4452](tel:715-772-4452) to sign up for an hour.

St Luke's: St Joan of Arc circle will meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday September 10th at the Downing Café. Please come and join us for the monthly business meeting and bible study.

St. Luke's Parishioners: Please pick up your raffle ticket books in the back of church. See Gloria Pieters or Barb Hellmann if you have questions.

Elmwood CCD Program: Elmwood CCD classes begin on Sept. 11th. Any new families interested in registering their children in our program; please contact Marilyn Bowell DRE 715-664-8975.

Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers: Our Elmwood parish needs more Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. For those interested in being trained as a Eucharistic Minister, please contact Becky.

FORMED LOG-IN INFO: Visit: www.formed.org and enter the Parish Access Code: **CQH26N** (all caps). Set up a username & password for an account.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Remember, you are following a martyr!

Our world today has too many celebrities and very few heroes. Our contemporary culture focuses so much on celebrities. The media hypes up stars in sports, entertainment, and popular culture. Often these celebrities are far from being role models for the younger generation, yet young people have them as their pin-up models. The personal life of these celebrities is often a disaster. The few heroes we have around are people who have endured difficulties; they have exhibited tremendous courage in being altruistic; they are visionaries. These are people to be imitated.

Jesus does not want people to rally around him as if around a celebrity. He does not want a large following of fans and admirers. He wants to form a community of disciples who will imitate him in his endurance, suffering and renunciation.

The Gospel of Luke presents us an image of Jesus being on his long and ultimate journey towards Jerusalem. Today’s gospel reading begins with this line: “Great crowds accompanied him on his way and he turned and spoke to them” Lk 14:25). Jesus becomes suspicious of this mob. He is not too sure if they understand what is going to happen in Jerusalem. He turns around and makes some facts clear to them. And this is not the first time he does this. Early on in Luke 9, when individuals wanted to follow him he did give them some facts about himself and as regards the purpose of his journey (Lk 9:57-62). Now (in Luke 14) individuals have become a crowd, and Jesus’ words have to be more plain. Jesus puts forward three conditions on the journey of discipleship. Let us focus on the three dimensions of discipleship.

Prioritize: If any man comes to me without hating his father... (Lk 14:26)

Jesus’ words seem terrifying: “Anyone who comes to me without hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, cannot be my disciple” (Lk 14:26). For sure, the preacher of love is not asking us to hate the very people who we love so naturally. At the same time we shouldn’t water down the demand of Jesus. Earlier in the Gospel, when the man whom Jesus invited to follow him said, “Let me go and bury my father first.” Jesus answered, “Leave the dead to bury their dead” (Lk 9:59-60). Jesus is not surely calling us to be inhuman not to fulfil our duty towards our own parents and families – after all, this is demanded of us in the Ten Commandments. But Jesus also does not want to compromise. Have your priorities clear. Have a prime of place for God in Jesus in your life.

Be ready to die to yourself: Anyone who does not carry his cross...(Lk 14:27)

Given the context of his journey towards Jerusalem, where he is going to suffer and die, Jesus cannot afford to mince words: “No one who does not carry his cross and come after me can be my disciple” (Lk 14:27). Be ready to suffer. Be ready to die. The death implied in carrying the cross could also mean dying to oneself, dying to one’s own plans and shallow desires and to be focused on Jesus.

Make yourself vulnerable: Unless he gives up all his possessions (Lk 14:33)

One concrete expression of participating in dying to ourselves is renunciation. “None of you can be my disciple without giving up all that he owns” (Lk 14:33). Already in Chapter 9 of Luke that we have referred to earlier in this reflection, Jesus has said it plainly to the man who wanted to follow him, “Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head” (Lk 9:57-58).

Discern: First sit down and consider...(Lk 14:31)

Surely, this is risky. So you better decide. Jesus does not force you to follow him. In an attempt to make it easier to follow Jesus, we do not have to water down his demands. Each one is free.

Jesus is not a celebrity, you see. He is a hero. And his heroism is in his martyrdom – giving up his life for something that he holds dear. Let us not forget that we are followers of a martyr.

Rev. Prince Raja

Stewardship for August 28-29, 2016

“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory
Spring Valley	\$1,253	\$112
Elmwood	\$915	\$149
Boyceville	\$999	\$6

BRIEFLY NOTED

SV Eucharistic Ministers to Homebound Needed:

Thank you to Rose Hovde for serving more than 30 years as an extraordinary minister bringing Communion to the Catholics at the Care Center and to the homebound members of our parish! We are now in need of someone to serve in this ministry as a substitute. Rita Johnson, Eugene Bauer, Rosalie Sowatzke, and Mary C Anderson are current extraordinary ministers, along with Br. Michael. Please consider serving; contact the office.

Fall Deanery Meeting/Assembly: Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016 at Sacred Heart, Mondovi. Our speaker will be Moira Kneer and her presentation is *A Call to Mercy*. This is a wonderful talk and a fitting topic as Pope Francis' Year of Mercy is coming to an end in November. Doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting begins at 7:00pm. The Sacred Heart Parish Council of Catholic Women looks forward to seeing you there!

Birthday Card Shower: for LeRoy Keenlyne who is turning 88 years old. Send cards to: E902 150th Ave, Elmwood WI 54740. Thank you!

Maintenance Position: St. John the Baptist Parish Plum City is seeking a person to fill a “part-time” maintenance position. For information or to submit a resume contact us: 11stjohn@centurylink.net 715-647-2901.

Catholic Scout Retreat: The Diocese of La Crosse is hosting a Catholic Scout Retreat on September 9-11 for Boy Scouts ages 13 and older. Interactive presentation and activities will be provided for scouts as well as Adult Emblem Counselor Training. **Location:** Gateway Area Boy Scout Camp Decorah, Holmen, WI. Cost: \$8/person. Contact Cindy Sjolander: 6008-783-4911 or csjolander@yahoo.com.

