

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

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OUR STAFF

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Our Mass Schedule for This Week

Monday (12-22).....NO MASS

Tuesday (12-23).....6:30 PM Mass at Spring Valley

+Viola Krings (Larry and Dianne Wiskerhan)

The Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday (12-24).....3:30PM Joyful Noise Prelude Music

4:00 PM VIGIL Mass at Spring Valley

+Jack Traynor (Doris Traynor)

8:00 PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood

+Tony and Arcella Binkowski (Binkowski Family)

Thursday (12-25).....8:30 AM Mass at Boyceville

Missa pro populo

10:30 AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Dorothy Hartung (Tom and Joelle Miller)

Friday (12-26).....NO MASS

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday (12-27).....8:00 PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood

+Rose Kohlman (John and Barb Schneider)

Sunday (12-28).....8:30 AM Mass at Boyceville

Missa pro populo

10:30 AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Don Miller (Miller Family)

BRIEFLY NOTED

End of the Year Giving: Did you know that last year Catholic Charities helped 6,961 individuals and families receive assistance with charitable outreach, advocacy and financial education through our St. Lawrence Community Services Program? We could not have done this without the help of you, our supporters! You can provide hope to our organization this year by joining us in providing food for families, a place to stay for the homeless or basic human needs for many in our communities. Please visit our website at www.cclse.org to make your end of the year tax deductible donation. Thank you for considering Catholic Charities.

Spring Valley Christmas Eve Prelude Music: Joyful Noise will begin prelude music at 3:30PM on Christmas Eve before the 4PM Mass. Come early and enjoy the music!

Spring Valley Diocesan Annual Appeal update: 84 families pledged \$16,750. An additional \$2,134 is needed to meet our DAA target.

Thank You: Tom & Sharon Weber would like to thank the Sacred Heart Quilters for the beautiful quilt Tom won in the Altar & Rosary raffle drawing on Dec. 11th. It will be treasured for years to come. Thank You.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 7:00-7:45 PM

Elmwood

Sunday 7:45-8:15 AM

Boyceville

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Boyceville

Spring Valley Adoration Chapel will be CLOSED Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec 26.

40 Days for Life Statistics:

726 babies were saved in this last campaign and 9,699 in all the campaigns since 2007.

87 Abortion clinics closed in the last 2 years where 40 Days for Life was present. 107 Workers have quit 559 Cities and 27 Countries where volunteer prayer warriors are present. By the grace of God, 40 Days for Life has achieved record results since launching as a worldwide movement in 2007.

Diocese Audited Reports: The Diocese of La Crosse audited June 30, 2014 financial statements, along with Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the statements, can be found at: www.dioc.org. The audited June 30, 2014 financial statements are also available for St. Ambrose Financial Services, Inc. at www.stambrosefinancial.com.

Lay Formation Institute: Registration is underway for the next 2 year cycle of the Lay Formation Institute. Classes begin Fall 2015. Brochures and application forms can be downloaded at www.dioc.org/layformation. For more information, contact Christopher Ruff, Office for Ministries and Social Concerns, at (608) 791-2664.

St. Joseph's, Prescott: Msgr Mark Pierce will be speaking on the Bible at St. Joseph's in Prescott on Wednesday evening, **January 7th**. Evening will start at 5 pm with a supper and presentation will start at 5:30PM. For more information call Barb Schneider at 715-647-2122.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

An essential component to our preparation to celebrate the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is to be reconciled with Him and His Body, the Church, through the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation. **“Last chance” Confessions in our parishes are 6:00-6:30 and 7:00-8:30 PM on Tuesday, December 23, at Spring Valley.**

In the spirit of this season of giving, **I invite you to prayerfully consider offering your time and talents to the service of God and our communities of faith as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (at Masses and/or to the homebound), reader (at Masses of the Lord’s Day and during the week), altar server, sacristan, or usher.** In the New Year we will offer sessions intended to renew those who already exercise these ministries and train those who are just beginning. Keep an eye on the bulletin and the parish website www.svecatholic.org for more details in the coming weeks.

The angel said to the shepherds: **‘Do not be afraid;** for behold, I proclaim to you **good news of great joy** that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12). Indeed, this **Holy Infant**, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, fills us – and through us the whole world – with **joy and hope.** When faced with the horrors of our day – the slaughter of the most innocent ones in the womb and those weakened by old age, terrorism and war, material and spiritual poverty, to name just a few – we can be paralyzed by fear. With the birth of Jesus, however, the angel assures us that **we need not be afraid!** The good news is that “the Word of God, God the Son of God . . . has taken on our human nature to free us from eternal death” (Saint Leo the Great, *Sermon* 1.2.1). May we who have been given the gift of faith embrace more fully the hope that is ours at the birth of the Savior!

In this mystery of the Incarnation – the Eternal Son of the Father taking on our human nature being born of the Virgin Mary – we believe that **Jesus Christ is “the human face of God and divine face of man”** (Blessed John Paul II, *The Church in America*, 67). An **encounter with this Jesus of Nazareth** – the Incarnate Son of God – “brings about a **profound transformation** in all who do not close themselves off from Him. The first impulse coming from this transformation is to communicate to others the richness discovered in the experience of the encounter. This does not mean simply teaching what we have come to know but also, like the Samaritan woman, **enabling others to encounter Jesus personally: ‘Come and see’** [John 4:29]. The result will be the same as that which took place in the heart of the Samaritans, who said to the woman: ‘It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for **we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world’** [John 4:42]” (Blessed John Paul II, *The Church in America*, 68). If you find yourself having grown lukewarm after that original encounter with the Lord or having closed yourself off from Jesus of Nazareth – for whatever reason – I invite you: “Come and see!” Come to encounter Jesus Christ at Sacred Heart-Saint Luke Parishes! Come to meet the merciful Savior in the Sacrament of Penance! Come to meet the Incarnate Son of God who makes Himself present under the forms of bread and wine at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass! Come to meet Him who is the Truth in study of the Word of God handed on in Scripture and Tradition! Come to meet the Crucified Lord in the persons of the young, the needy, the suffering, and the sorrowing!

“Today Christ was born; today the Savior appeared; today the angels sing on earth, the archangels rejoice; today the just exult, saying: **Glory to God in the highest, alleluia**” (Christmas Day, Evening Prayer II, Magnificat Antiphon). May you and your loved ones have a **joyful and blessed Christmas!** Be assured that I keep you in my prayers in this holy season. Please pray for me! May the Blessed Virgin Mary, **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, watch over you and your family with her motherly care! May the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us!

Very Rev. Kevin C. Louis, STL

Stewardship for December 13-14

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

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Immaculate Conception
Spring Valley	\$1365	\$142.79	\$80
Elmwood	\$1390	\$135	
Boyceville	\$950	\$233	

BRIEFLY NOTED

Elmwood Diocesan Appeal Update: Our goal is \$15,461. To date: Amount Pledged is \$13,070 or 84.5% of goal. Amount Paid is \$12,060 or 78% of goal. Participation: 82 out of 179 parishioners have pledged; this is 46% of the total parishioners. **We need everyone to help meet our assigned goal otherwise any shortfall will have to be paid out of our parish operating funds.** If you need a pledge card there are some in the back of the church, or contact Becky in the parish office. In the past we have always had 60 to 70% parish participation and have always met our goal. Thank you to everyone for helping us to make our goal.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary: We have our new officers and all group chair people are filled. Wonderful!

Officers: President: Berniece Asher, Vice President: Sharon Weber, Treasurer: Kathy Feuker, Secretary: Roxanne Taplin.

Chair People: St. Ann’s group: Dana Hince and Dawn Hartung. St. Elizabeth’s group: Lynette Bates and Susan Pitman. St. Joseph’s group: Kitty McCardle and Karen Peterson. St. Rita’s group: Carol Lecheler and Lois Friermuth. Thank you to everyone that made the year go so smoothly. ~Kathy Geraets – past President.

