

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

Central Office

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Our Mass Schedule for This Week

Monday (1-5).....8:00 AM Mass at Elmwood
+Andrew Fesenmaier (Greg Fesenmaier)
Tuesday (1-6).....6:30 PM Mass at Spring Valley
+Leo and Frances Huebel (Julie and Dave Ducklow)
Wednesday (1-7).....7:30 PM Mass at Elmwood
+Florence Beyer Sweeney (Michael and Cathy Baier)
Thursday (1-8).....8:00AM Mass at Spring Valley
+Gen Ducklow (Mr and Mrs Donald Miller)
10:00 AM Mass at Spring Valley Healthcare Center
+Duane Kelley (Lois Wanzeha Family)
Friday (1-9).....8:00 AM *Communion Service at Spring Valley*
1:30 PM Mass at Heritage of Elmwood NH
+Frank Crownhart (Bob and Kathy Geraets)

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Saturday (1-10).....8:00 PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood
Missa pro populo
Sunday (1-11).....8:30 AM Mass at Boyceville
+Alvin Erickson and Bever Family (Margaret Erickson)
10:30 AM Mass at Spring Valley
+Bernard Grant (Barry and Mary Anderson)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Rural Life Day: This past fall, the Diocese celebrated Rural Life Day in a new and exciting way: on a farm. Bishop Callahan received a personal invitation from Allan and Connie Walter to have the event on their farm. Following the success of this event, the Bishop is hopeful this can be the new format going forward. **BUT, we need help locating farmers willing to host this annual event held on the 4th Wednesday of September.** The format is for this event to move around the Diocese and be hosted by a deanery of parishes who all contribute to making the day possible, thus the host farm is not expected to do it alone or bear the financial burden. One basic resource that is needed is a large shed, and also a spirit of hospitality. Any farm family willing to host a Rural Life Day can contact Bishop Callahan's secretary Deb Brannon (608) 788-7700 or his Liaison to the Rural Life Committee Dan Kitzhaber (715) 384-4989x3 or yministry@frontier.com

Natural Family Planning Classes: The Couple to Couple League will be offering a series of classes, for engaged and married couples, on the *Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning* at St. Bridget's Church in River Falls, WI. **Classes begin on Saturday, January 24th, at 9:00AM.** Register at <http://twincities.ccli.org>. For more information, call 612-721-3791 or email: twincities.ccli.org@gmail.com.

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
Thurs. 5 PM to Friday 8 PM
Spring Valley

Interparish Pastoral Council: meets on **Tuesday, January 20** at the Spring Valley CCD Center at 7PM. Council members please notify the Central Office if you are unable to attend. Thank you.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary Society:

Listings for our beautiful memorial Altar flowers this year can be found by the church entrances. Thank you for all who donated in memory of your loved ones and to St. Elizabeth's group for all their work in making our church so special to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

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.

Pro-Life Action Alert: The State of California has mandated that all health plans in its jurisdiction, including those used by churches and religious institutions cover any and all abortions. Incredible but true. Other states are also considering such a mandate. This violates the federal Weldon Amendment, but that amendment has lacked effective enforcement. **Therefore, please urge your U.S. Senators and Representative to vote for the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA) as part of must-pass funding legislation.** To make your voice heard, visit www.nchla.org and click on "Action Alerts."

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

In the current liturgical calendar for our Roman Rite – revised under the directives of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and promulgated in 1969 by the authority of Blessed Paul VI – our **Christmas Season** is marked by three great celebrations: Christmas itself, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord. In a most ancient liturgical tradition of the Church – previous to the fourth century – only **one** solemnity was observed, called Epiphany or Theophany, names which signify the **self-manifestation or self-revelation of God**. This one ancient feast actually called to mind **four** different events of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ: His **Birth**, wherein the divinity of Christ was revealed first to God’s chosen people; second, the **homage of the Magi**, wherein the divinity of Christ was manifested not just to the chosen people of Israel, but *ad gentes*, that is, to all peoples represented by the wise men from the East; third, **His Baptism by John**, wherein the divinity of Christ was shown at the beginning of His public ministry by the presence of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the Father; and, finally, the **miracle at the wedding at Cana**, changing water into wine, the first sign by which Jesus revealed Himself to be the Messiah. Eventually, three of these four elements – the remembrance of the Lord’s Birth, the homage of the Magi, and the Baptism of the Lord – were separated and given their own particular celebration. This is the genesis of our Christmas Season. In its origins, then, our Christmas Season was much broader and deeper than an extended commemoration merely of the Birth of Jesus. From its very beginning the focus of the Season was the revelation of God in Jesus Christ.

This original character of the Christmas Season is clearly reflected in the texts currently prescribed for the Masses of Christmas, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord – texts drawn from the ancient sources of the Season itself. At **Christmas**, Preface I of the Eucharistic Prayer addresses the Father in these words: “In the mystery of the Word made flesh a new light of your glory has shown upon the eyes of our mind, so that, as we recognize in Him God made visible, we may be caught up through Him in love of things invisible.” The Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer of **Epiphany** continues this theme of God’s self-manifestation as it says to the Father: “Today you have revealed the mystery of our salvation in Christ as a light for the nations.” Finally, in the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass of the **Baptism of the Lord**, the Father is addressed in these words: “In the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that through the voice that came down from Heaven we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us, and by the Spirit’s descending in the likeness of a dove we might know that Christ your Servant has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor.”

Today’s observance of the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord** calls to mind the events recounted in Saint Matthew’s Gospel (2:1-12): God the Father guiding the Magi to encounter His Eternal Son who is revealed to them as the Savior, the light of all peoples. Upon “entering the house they saw the Child with Mary His Mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (10-11).

Through the centuries **numerous customs** have developed in connection with Epiphany. In many countries it is on this day, and not at Christmas, that people **exchange gifts** with one another in imitation of the wise men who brought gifts for the Divine Infant. Another popular tradition is the **blessing of the home**. Using blessed chalk, the parish priest or the father or mother of the household marks the entrance door (and interior doorways, if so desired) with the year and the letters “**CMB**” which stand for the names traditionally given to the wise men: **C**aspar, **M**elchior, and **B**althasar. These letters also are an abbreviation of the Latin prayer **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** (“May Christ bless this home”). The inscription **20+ C+M+B+15** remains above the doorway until Pentecost. During the blessing grains of incense may be burned symbolizing the family’s prayer rising to God (Revelation 8:3-4).

Saints Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, pray for us!

Very Rev. Kevin C. Louis, STL

Stewardship for December 27-28				
<i>“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)</i>				
	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Christmas	Centennial Income
Spring Valley	\$1504	\$124	\$120	
Elmwood	\$2245	\$128	\$760	
Boyceville	\$542	\$43		
Spring Valley (12/24)	\$2564	\$252		
Spring Valley (12/25)	\$2343	\$171.50		
Elmwood (12/24)	\$2855	\$331	\$695	\$75
Boyceville (12/25)	\$220	\$176		

