

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 (4/20).....8:00 AM Mass at Elmwood
+Frank Crownhart (Don & Mary Schmitz)
Tuesday-Wednesday (4/21-22).....NO MASS
Thursday (4-23).....8:00 AM *Communion Service at Spring Valley*
Friday (4-24).....8:00 AM *Communion Service at Spring Valley*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday (4-25).....8:00 PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood
+Kenneth Bauer (Arnie Bauer Sr. and Family)
Sunday (4-26).....8:30 AM Mass at Boyceville
Missa pro Populo
10:30 AM First Communion Mass at Spring Valley
+Jeff Anderson (Ray Bartholmay)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Elmwood May Crowning: will be held at the 8:00pm mass on Sat. April 25. The family that will be honoring our Blessed Mother is Carol Lecheler, her daughters and granddaughters. Thank you so much for honoring our Blessed Mother!

Wisconsin Right to Life Event: with Julia Holcomb on Wednesday, May 13 2015 at the Florian Gardens Conference Center (2340 Lorch Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701). 5:30PM—Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres. 6:15PM—Program. Complimentary beer, wine, soda and hors d'oeuvres, cash bar will also be available. Please RSVP by Friday, May 8. Call Maddy at 414-778-5780.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary Society: We are collecting PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS to be used to purchase wheel chairs for children. Plastic caps (paper or foil liners removed) from beverages, tooth paste, detergent, shampoo, cream cheese, etc are accepted. **Water bottle caps need to be kept separate.** For details visit: www.capslove.com. **Please put caps in the pails in the entry of our church by April 28th.** The Deanery Meeting speaker will take them with her that night. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project!

Stewardship for April 11-12

“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?”

(Psalm 116:12)

	Envelopes	Offertory	Roof Fund	Ladies Collection
Spring Valley	\$1856	\$56	\$250	
Elmwood	\$1145	\$229.64		\$119.12
Boyceville	\$1085	\$23		

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

St. Luke's: The Spring deanery meeting will be at Sacred Heart in Elmwood, on Tuesday April 28th. Come and enjoy.

World Mission Sunday Update:

On behalf of the many men and women who serve Christ in the foreign missions, the Diocesan Mission Office extends to St Luke Parish and to Sacred Heart Parishes of Elmwood and Spring Valley a heartfelt thank you for your financial generosity on World Mission Sunday. We have received your contributions of \$243, \$240 and \$225, respectively, from your parishes which will be forwarded to the National Office of the Society of the Propagation of Faith. May God bless you for the financial and spiritual help you offer the missions.

~Rev. Msgr. Roger Schleckel
Director Diocesan Mission Office

Natural Family Planning:

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 Hudson Physicians, 405 Stageline Rd., Hudson, WI. New streamlined methodology and new materials integrate Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Classes begin on Saturday, April 25th, at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please call 612.721.3791.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

I am typing this Monday evening at the **Saint Anthony Spirituality Center just outside of Marathon City.** I had promised Becky that I would get my column to her by Monday and I am going to keep it! I had planned to get the column written Monday morning and then make the two-and-a-half hour trip east. Circumstances in our parishes prevented my plan from being fulfilled. But God’s plan was not mine – and His plan is infinitely more important! Now the grand silence has fallen on us retreatants as night settles over this glorious place. **These 52 acres of forest, lakes, meadows, and streams above the Rib River has been dedicated to God’s glory for more than 100 years.** It began as house of formation for brothers and priests of the Capuchin Franciscans. With a dwindling number of men entering the Franciscans, in the early 1970s the Capuchins altered the mission of Saint Anthony to be a welcoming place for the faith formation and prayer of *everyone* – priest, religious, and laity alike. More recently, the Capuchin Franciscans could no longer staff the retreat center and so in 2014 a group of dedicated laity took over ownership and oversight so that the important spiritual work of Saint Anthony could continue. **Everyone who – with their heart open – comes to Saint Anthony does not return home the same.** I first experienced the wonder of this holy place as a freshman in high school. As a student at Columbus Catholic High School in Marshfield we had several retreats here that made a deep impression on my young soul. Since ordination I have prayed here many times with my brother priests during our annual retreat. And for the past five years it has been such an incredible blessing to come to this house of prayer each month for the Permanent Deacon Formation Program. **God dwells here.**

It was very moving tonight to be in the Saint Anthony Chapel singing robustly with my brother priests and praying with them. As I looked around the chapel I saw so many of these priests who – 25 years ago! – were my age. As a newly-ordained priest, these were the men who were pastors in the parishes and they were the ones I looked up to. They are all now well into their 70s and some beyond that. They have a hard time getting around. Some have canes now. Not all of them have clear and agile minds like they once had. **They look old – and tired.** But not the tired of busy-like exhaustion. Rather, more like the tired that the Wisconsin men’s basketball team looked after beating previously-undefeated Kentucky. **These, my elder brethren in the Holy Priesthood, have that look of having entirely spent themselves in the service of God’s Kingdom and His holy people.** One day the young priests who are now newly-ordained will look on me in this chapel in the same way, God willing. When that day arrives, I pray that they will say, “Father Louis sure looks old and tired” – the look of one who has poured out his entire life in loving service of the Lord and His body, the Church.

What in the world happened at Spring Valley this past weekend!? Of course, this past Sunday our parishes had an additional 10:30 AM Mass at Elmwood for First Holy Communion there. Months ago our parishes had secured the services of Monsignor Dave Kunz, Vicar for Clergy for our Diocese of La Crosse, to celebrate the 10:30 AM Mass at Spring Valley so that Father Louis and Deacon Ray would be free for the Elmwood First Communion Mass. The week previous Becky Schmitt confirmed with Monsignor Kunz his Sunday appointment at Spring Valley. Sunday morning came, the church was full, but there was no Monsignor Kunz! He has since called to apologize for the inconvenience he caused our parishioners. **Monsignor said it was indeed on his calendar but that he simply forgot the appointment.** After waiting an appropriate amount of time to see if the priest was going to arrive, Bob Richardson lead the congregation in a Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Holy Communion of hosts consecrated at a previous Mass. He is a well-trained and commissioned Leader of Prayer for our Diocese. **On Sunday morning Bob did what he was trained to do and what the Bishop commissioned him for – to lead the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion in the extraordinary circumstance when a priest is not present although people have already gathered for a previously-scheduled Mass. Thanks to Bob for his generous service that he always gives and especially in this unusual circumstance!**

This episode is another reminder about the importance for us to pray for our priests and for vocations to the Priesthood for our Diocese of La Crosse. Bishop Callahan made the decision to not close any parishes in our Diocese. While people appreciate that their local church remains open, it also entails significant expense to the parishes to maintain their underused facilities as well as placing an increasingly heavy burden on the priests to shepherd multiple communities often many miles apart. And many of our priests have been given additional responsibilities beyond the parishes that they serve. **The situation of pastoral care in our Diocese is very difficult and fragile. The number of priests available for helpouts is at its lowest point in nearly a decade.** Last year I explored the possibility of having the Saturday Vigil Mass at Elmwood at 4:00 PM. I instructed Becky Schmitt to see if there would be priests available to cover an early afternoon Mass in my absence. For three months she contacted priests from our Diocese as well as the Dioceses of Superior, Winona, and Saint Paul-Minneapolis. **It proved impossible to find a priest to cover those Masses. As of July 1, 2015, our Diocese will be losing nine (yes, nine!) Pastors:** six of our international priests are being recalled to their home Dioceses, two of our native-born priests are retiring, and one priest is being "loaned" to teach in the seminary in Chicago. **In the first weekend of May there will be announced many significant and substantial changes to configurations of parishes and assignments of priests.** Our parishioners must be grateful to God (and the Bishop!) that the configuration of our three parishes under one Pastor is expected to remain stable for the foreseeable future.

Saint John Vianney, patron of parish priests, pray for our priests! Saint Joseph, patron of families and of our Diocese, pray for us!

Father Kevin C. Louis, STL

