

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

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DEACON – Kevin Ray

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OUR STAFF

Central Office

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Our Mass Schedule for This Week

Monday (12-21).....NO MASS
Tuesday (12-22).....6:30PM Mass at Spring Valley
+Adeline Crownhart (John and Nancy Ellingson)
Wednesday (12-23)7:30PM Mass at Elmwood
+Clarence Pittman (John and Barb Schneider)

Christmas Masses in Our Parishes

Thursday (12-24).....4:00PM Christmas Eve Mass at Spring Valley
+Jack Traynor (Doris Traynor and Family)
8:00PM Christmas Eve Mass at Elmwood
+Daniel Cleland and Ruthann Masse (Jeff and Susan Pitman)
Friday (12-25).....8:30AM Christmas Day Mass at Boyceville
Missa Pro Populo

Solemnity of the Holy Family

Saturday (12-26).....8:00PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood
Missa Pro Populo
Sunday (12-27).....8:30AM Mass at Boyceville
+Joe Reagan (James Smith)
10:30AM Mass at Spring Valley
+Don Miller (Don Miller Family)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Spring Valley Altar Server training: will be held 3:30-4:30pm on **Wednesday, January 13, 2016** in the church. Any student wishing to serve should bring the parental permission slip with them. The forms are available at CCD as well as in the back of church.

Boyceville Weekend Meal Program: St Luke's will be packing bags for the weekend meal program at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 21st at the Westcap building on Main Street in Boyceville. Anyone interested please contact Joe Pieters (715-643-4431)

Spring Valley Christmas Decorating: Volunteers are needed to assist with decorating the Church for Christmas after the 10:30AM mass on December 20. Many hands make light work! Please lend your time and help make our altar beautiful for Christmas!

Elmwood Altar Flowers: Anyone wishing to donate money for Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one should send it to Altar & Rosary PO Box 54, Elmwood, WI 54740 or you can drop it in the box in the basement. Thank you.

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 5:45-6:15 PM
Spring Valley
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

Adoration Chapel: Eucharistic Adoration Chapel will be **CLOSED** on December 24-25 and on December 31-January 1.

St. Luke's: We have collected pledges totaling \$6,532 and are at 102% of the target amount of \$6,384. Thank you to all who so generously donated to the Annual Appeal!

Elmwood Altar & Rosary Society: is looking for a Secretary for the upcoming year. If anyone would like to volunteer to fill the position, please call 715-639-3954.

Mass Requests: If anyone wishes to have a mass celebrated for a loved one they may place their request in a clearly marked envelope in the collection basket at mass or mail it to the Central Office. Mass stipends are \$10 a mass.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

Go to your app store and search for "myParish-Catholic Life". Follow the installation prompts, select your parish and stay connected with current parish events and mass times.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Items must be received at the Central Office by **Tuesday at 3:00 PM.**

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

Advent 4 – C

For the past couple of weeks, John the Baptist has been the messenger of the Good News. Though, if you’ve been here, you know the news hasn’t been all **that good**. There’s been talk about winnowing fans and unquenchable fire. So it’s a relief today to hear from a different messenger: Mary the Prophet, who will, in time, turn out to be the mother of Jesus--but not just yet. Today, she is still a **young girl** chosen before she **bears a child** to bear a message.

Some may suggest Mary went to visit Elizabeth simply to aid her aged relative in the last months of pregnancy. But I think it’s **more likely** that Mary went, as a test, to see if **there is anything** behind this angel-thing. Along the way, there is lots of time to worry. What if Joseph denounces her? What if her parents disown her? Beyond that, how will she take care of a baby? So, when she finally arrives, Mary is something of a wreck.

Elizabeth does not **so much** say as **shout** her greeting: “Blessed are you among women!” She speaks so loudly because she’s excited that Mary has come, because in her own womb the baby has jumped for joy, because there’s new life popping out all over and, she’s glad her young relative has had the sense to **believe**. And then it’s Mary’s turn. “My spirit proclaims the greatness of the Lord,” Mary breaks into song, “and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.”

Elizabeth is the first to hear this song but it’s not just for her. It’s also for Mary herself and the Mighty One behind it all and, Gabriel who broke the news and, for all who will benefit; for the proud and the powerful who will be relieved of their swelled heads; for the hungry who will be filled and for the rich who will be sent away empty so that they might have room for something more than money can buy. And Mary is so sure of it that she sings about it ahead of time. Not in the future tense, but in the past--as if the promise had **already** come true. Remember, prophets almost never get their verb tenses right because part of their gift is being able to see the world as God sees it.

Now just because God sends an angel to invite **one** girl onto the dance floor does not mean she will say yes. Just because God sends a prophet to tell us how life on earth **can be** more like life in heaven does not mean we will change our lives and make it so. First, God acts. **Then** it’s **our turn** and on and on it goes, like a divine game of leapfrog. Where we’re headed isn’t so clear. The only thing that’s sure is that we have a partner who is with us and for us. Mary does not have a sonogram, a husband, or an affidavit from the HS that says “The child really is mine.” Now leave the poor girl alone.”

All she has is her **unreasonable trust** that the God who has chosen her will continue to be part of whatever happens next and **that trust alone** is enough to make her sing.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

-Deacon Kevin Ray

Stewardship for December 12-13 2015					
<i>“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)</i>					
	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	DAA	Candles	Retirement for Religious
Spring Valley	\$1,274.75	\$181.76	\$30	\$17	
Elmwood	\$4,895	\$151	\$250		
Boyceville	\$475	\$109			\$375

Elmwood Prayer Circle: Elmwood Sacred Heart updated prayer circle is now posted on the bulletin boards at 3 church entrances. Prayer circle members will also receive updated lists. Please note the changes made in the person you call. Thank you.

Retirement Fund for Religious: Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care and more. Please be generous. **Envelopes for your contributions can be found at the entrances of Church.** Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Come Experience The Miracle of Bethlehem: Please join us for a live Nativity performance with actors from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Plum City. The Nativity will feature live animals from local farms, Traditional Christmas Caroling, and free refreshments. Join us on Sunday, December 20th from 5pm-8pm at the Plum City Duck Pond Park in downtown Plum City, WI. Come Celebrate the Miracle of Bethlehem!

Year of Mercy Resources: The Diocese has provided the following list of resources to assist us in entering more deeply into this Year of Mercy. These resources can be found at the listed websites:

- *The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion Booklet* (Marian Helper Center www.marian.org)
- *Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet* (Marian Helper Center www.marian.org)
- *Faustina, Apostle of Divine Mercy* by Catherine M. Odell (Our Sunday Visitor www.osv.com)
- *The Life of Faustina Kowalska* by Sister Sophia Michalenko. (Servant Books www.ServantBooks.org)

