

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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OUR STAFF

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Our Mass Schedule for This Week

Tuesday (12-13).....6:30PM Mass at Spring Valley

+Dale Jensen (Patrick and Jill Bingham)

Wednesday (12-14).....7:30PM Vigil Mass at Elmwood

+Charles Bates (Patty Bates Hawkins)

Thursday (12-15).....8:00AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Lorraine Langer (Langer Family)

Friday (12-16).....1:30PM Mass at Elmwood Assisted Living

+Peter and Virginia Lecheler (Lecheler Family)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday (12-17).....8:00PM Vigil Mass at Elmwood

+Peter and Virginia Lecheler (Lecheler Family)

Sunday (12-18).....8:30AM Mass at Boyceville

Missa Pro Populo

10:30AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Billy Anderson, Jeff Anderson and Brady Sotona (Harriet Anderson)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Retirement for Religious Fund: Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Envelopes are available at entrances of Church and in pews. Thank you!

Note of Gratitude: Thank you to the Steve & Carol Lecheler family for their donation of a new altar to our Elmwood Assisted Living facility in memory of Peter & Virginia Lecheler. Thank you for your generosity!

St Luke's: Today, December 11th is POT LUCK SUNDAY and also St Jessica Circle's ANNUAL BAKE SALE Please stay and enjoy the good food and fellowship and maybe purchase a goodie or two.

Luke's: We remain at 65% of our \$6908 Annual Appeal goal leaving a balance due of \$2410. Thank you to all who have already donated to this worthy cause. Please consider donating and help us reach our goal.

Spring Valley DAA: Thank you to those whose donations to the DAA were recently received. With the new donations and continued installment payments, our new DAA balance due is \$5,928. The DAA supports 38 charitable, pastoral, and educational missions in our diocese. During this Christmas spirit of giving, please give to the DAA.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary Society: Ladies, the Christmas Party has been changed to Sunday, Dec. 11 at 12pm. Please drop off your cookies on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 10th so they can be ready for distribution to the homebound the next day. 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

Thurs. 8 AM to Friday 8AM

Spring Valley

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Dec. 24 *Christmas Eve*

4:00PM at Spring Valley

8:00PM at Elmwood

Dec. 25 *Christmas Day*

8:30AM at Boyceville

10:30AM at Spring Valley

Phone Call from the Bishop:

Recently Bishop Callahan attempted to reach out to each one of us in the Diocese of La Crosse to extend his blessing for this Advent season. In return, he asks that we share with him a personal intention that he could pray for at his Christmas Mass Celebrations. If you missed the call, did not receive a call, or just want to listen to his message again you can do so by calling

(608) 352-9565 or by visiting the Diocesan website at

<http://www.dioc.org/pray>

St Luke's: All current and prospective USHERS. Please see Paul Zimmerman after Mass today.

Spring Valley Parishioners:

Please pick up your 2017 Offertory envelopes. If you can't find your box or the information on the box is incorrect, please notify the central office immediately.

Elmwood Altar Flowers: Anyone wishing to donate for Christmas flowers in memory of their loved ones, can put a donation either in the box in the church kitchen basement or send it to Altar & Rosary, PO Box 54, Elmwood.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

For two weeks already, the season of Advent has been calling us to spiritual vigilance in preparation to welcome the Lord who is to come. Today, we note another interior attitude by which to live out this time of waiting for the Lord-Joy. The Church looks forward to the joy of Christmas and so today is called “Gaudete Sunday”. The rose colored candle and chasuble used during the third week represents joy and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration.

John who was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah had faithfully accomplished his mission, and people of different walks of life, except the religious and political leaders, had come to him repentant and asking for the baptism of repentance. He experienced the joy of seeing these people return to God. His joy knew no bounds when he heard the Heavenly Father speaking at the baptism of Jesus: “This is my Son, the beloved, my favour rests with him” (Mt 3:17).

But then John is arrested and put in prison by Herod, and in his loneliness and suffering in prison he is troubled with doubts and faced a crisis of faith. He was wondering why Jesus was delaying what he himself had announced about him, all the more because his days were counted. So he sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is really the Messiah. Jesus in answer to John’s question says, as we heard in today’s Gospel, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk...” which is the fulfilment of what Prophet Isaiah had foretold as we heard in the first reading of today (Isa 35:5-6).

From this it would be clear to John that it is Jesus Himself for whom he prepared the way. So now John is happy and he feels that he can patiently wait for the day to depart from this world, and his disciples will have Jesus as their Master and Savior.

Advent is a time for us Christians to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

Let us also then, like the people of Israel who heeded to the call of John to repent, be sorry for our sins and return to the Lord by making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and rejoice at the fact that the Lord has come and liberated us from the clutches of the devil and made us one with Him so that we are God’s own beloved children. Therefore, with grateful hearts we can celebrate Jesus’ birthday and be certain of the eternal bliss that awaits us after our life here on earth when the Lord will come again. Meanwhile we too, as in the 2nd reading, may patiently wait for the second coming of Christ, like the farmer waits for the harvest, accepting with faith the sufferings that God permits in our lives.

Rev. Prince Raja

Stewardship for December 3-4, 2016

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

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	World Mission Sunday
Spring Valley	\$2, 717	\$89.50	
Elmwood	\$1,435	\$76.25	\$50
Boyceville	\$1,233	\$52	

BRIEFLY NOTED

This Week on FORMED: On December 12th we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In this Feast we remember Our Blessed Mother's encounter with Saint Juan Diego and the transformative effect this encounter had on our world. If you're unfamiliar with the story, check out the documentary "Guadalupe," narrated by Jim Caviezel, on the Movies Tab at Formed.org. If you're looking for a good book to read this Advent, check out “Deep Conversation, Deep Prayer” by Fr. Thomas Dubay, found on the Books tab of Formed.org. Log in to Formed by visiting www.formed.org/register –and entering in Parish Code: **CQH26N**

Spring Valley Children’s Christmas Program: The Children’s Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18th before the 10:30am mass at Sacred Heart, Spring Valley. Practices will be at 9:30am at Spring Valley church on Sunday, December 11th. Contact Amy Peabody at 715-778-5911 or by email at amypeabody@hotmail.com if you would like your child to participate in the program.

Chippewa Valley Marriage Encounter: National Marriage Encounter is hosting a retreat for married couples on March 11-12, 2017 in the Eau Claire area. For more information about this retreat experience, contact Ken and Sue Ripp at rippsk@charter.net - 715-832-3296. [Click here](#) for the details and registration.

Diaconate Discernment Retreat February 3-4, 2017: A Discernment Retreat for men who feel they may be called to the permanent diaconate will be held Friday-Saturday, February 3-4 at St. Anthony’s Spirituality Center. For information and a registration form, visit www.dioc.org/deacon-discernment. See general information about the Permanent Diaconate on the diocesan website. For more information, contact Christopher Ruff, Office for Ministries and Social Concerns, at cruff@dioc.org or (608) 791-2664. The Discernment Retreat is mandatory for those considering applying for the class beginning fall 2017.

NEW Class for Lay Formation Institute Begins in Fall of 2017 - Renew your parish, energize leadership! Registration is now underway for the next two-year cycle of the Lay Formation Institute. Application forms can be downloaded at www.dioc.org/lay-formation. Questions? – Contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at cruff@dioc.org or (608) 791-2664.

