

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 (8/10-8/12).....NO MASS
Thursday (8-13).....8:00 AM *Communion Service at Spring Valley*
Friday (8-14).....8:00 AM *Communion Service at Spring Valley*

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday (8-15).....8:00 PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood
+Peter Lecheler (Steve and Carol Lecheler)
Sunday (8-16).....8:30 AM Mass at Boyceville
Missa pro Populo
10:30 AM Mass at Spring Valley
+Jeff Anderson (John and Linda Hartner)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Dedication of Br. Michael Catholic Center: The rededication and blessing of the Brother Michael Catholic Center will take place on Sunday, August 23 after the 10:30AM mass. A luncheon of celebration will be provided by the PCCW. All are welcome!

Heritage of Elmwood Pie & Ice Cream Social: The Heritage of Elmwood invites everyone to attend the Pie and Ice Cream Social, being held on Wednesday, August 26th from 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. We will be serving Barbeques and Pie and Ice Cream. Free Will Offering. Rich Schroeder will be entertaining. We look forward to seeing you there.

Diocesan Lay Formation Class: *Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners!* Registration is open for the next two-year cycle. For information, contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at (608) 791-2667.

Thank You: Thank you Gordan Grant for the donation of black dirt to the Sacred Heart Spring Valley Cemetery. We appreciate your generosity!

Stewardship for August 2-3

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

(Psalm 116:12)

	Envelopes	Offertory	Roof	Fischer Memorial
Spring Valley	\$1435	\$208.90	\$20	
Elmwood	\$1480	\$136.75		\$50
Boyceville	\$853	\$28		

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

Holy Rosary Parish in Lima is hosting a Fall Festival on Sunday, August 23, 2015. The day begins with a Polka Mass at 10 am. Roast Beef dinner with all the trimmings served from 11 - 1:30. Silent Auction, Booths, Games. Located 6 miles east of Durand off Highway 10 on County Road V.

Elmwood CCD Program: New parish families interested in registering their children in our CCD education program, please contact Marilyn Bowell, CRE at 715-664-8975.

Men of the Cross Men's Conference: Join Bishop Callahan and hundreds of other men for inspirational speakers, sacraments and fellowship on October 24, 2015 in the Fine Arts Center at Viterbo University in La Crosse. For details and registration please visit: www.menofthecross.org.

Pro-Life Minute - Fact: Exceptions for abortion undermine human personhood.

Some pro-lifers believe that exceptions for "hard cases" like rape and incest are necessary to see abortion drastically reduced. However, these exceptions undermine the unique dignity of each human person. Each child is valuable without exception. *Pro-Life Minute is sponsored by Pro-Life Wisconsin. For information visit ProLifeWisconsin.org*

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

On Tuesday of last week, **Father Bill Matzek, native son and Pastor of Saint Mary Parish in Big River**, died at United Hospital in the Twin Cities. Please pray for the repose of Father Matzek’s soul and the consolation of his family and parishioners. Keep praying for the spiritual and physical health of all the priests who serve in our Diocese. Shortly after Father Matzek was admitted to the hospital, I received notice that **Father Hoese of Saint Henry Parish, Eau Galle**, was also in the hospital. **Upon Father Matzek’s death, I – as Dean of the Durand Deanery – automatically became the Parochial Administrator of Saint Mary Parish in Big River.** In plain terms, it means I am acting Pastor until such time as Bishop Callahan names a new Administrator or assigns a new Pastor. I spoke briefly with Bishop Callahan and he was unsure of the timeline of naming a new Pastor. So in the meantime, I am responsible for the sacramental and spiritual care of our neighbors in Big River as well as the administration of the parish. Deacon Gannon of Saint Mary Parish and I have spoken at length and there are many things he will handle. However, those duties pertaining to the priest or Pastor fall to me. Thank you for your patience and understanding – and your prayers.

There are days recently when I feel as if I have fallen into some strange parallel universe. Five lawyers of the Supreme Court of our nation have taken it upon themselves to **redefine marriage** and then force this notion upon the entire country. More recently, the **barbarity of trafficking of body parts of unborn children by taxpayer-subsidized abortion behemoth, Planned Parenthood**, has been captured on videos. **John Kass, a 59 year old columnist for the Chicago Tribune**, wrote a thoughtful piece not from the perspective of faith, but simply as a human being. Appearing in the August 4 edition, Kass wrote: “You don’t have to watch those videos of Planned Parenthood officials released by an anti-abortion group. No one will force you. And you’d be right to look with suspicion at anyone who tells you that you must watch them. So I’m not telling you to watch. But I am asking you to ask yourself two questions: **Is there a cost to avoidance? And what is the cost?**”

Kass continues: “A new video came out the other day, a fifth video, of **Planned Parenthood officials talking in chilling euphemisms and grisly business in the lab**, secretly recorded by the Center for Medical Progress. **Of course, you can ignore it, and the others too. Perhaps it’s safer that way.** There’s something to be said for avoidance, and I suppose many have avoided the videos, thoughtful and decent people on all sides of the issue. I hoped to avoid it as well, but when the new video was released, I was drawn to it, though I knew it would be painful. It was. Like the other videos, the fifth centers on **Planned Parenthood’s fetal organ harvests**, but the new video also deals with the issue of ‘intact’ fetuses, **discussed in neutral, bureaucratic language.** ‘And we are able to obtain intact fetal cadavers, then we can make it part of the budget, that any dissections are this, and splitting the specimens into different shipments is this, I mean that’s — it’s all just a matter of line items,’ says a Planned Parenthood official in the video. **And so the unborn are reduced to line items.**

Planned Parenthood quickly responded, saying the videos are nothing more than an anti-choice campaign to smear an organization that provides health care to women. The Center for Medical Progress alleges the videos are evidence that Planned Parenthood — which receives more than \$500 million each year in federal tax money — is illegally selling body parts for profit. The politicians are all over it. Democrats argue the videos attack a woman’s sexual freedom and the right to choose an abortion. That’ll help raise campaign money. Republicans argue that the group should lose federal funding for engaging in possibly illegal organ selling. And that will help raise campaign money as well. A procedural vote to deny funding, one of many to come, was defeated in the Senate. But congressional hearings are scheduled after the recess, and there will be more politics. Not all of the politicians outraged by Planned Parenthood are Republicans. A few Democrats joined in. One is West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, who said he opposes funding Planned Parenthood. ‘I am very troubled by the callous behavior of Planned Parenthood staff in recently released videos, which casually discuss the sale, possibly for profit, of fetal tissue after an abortion. Until these allegations have been answered and resolved, I do not believe that taxpayer money should be used to fund this organization,’ Manchin said in a statement.”

Kass gets to the heart of his observations: “So what’s on videos still to come, and the continued squawking of angry people in those little boxes on TV will make it even more difficult to avoid the issue in the fall. But the issue isn’t whether abortion is legal. Abortion has been legal for decades. That’s not going to change. This is something else again: **Reducing human life to a commodity, subject to market whims, where the ‘procedure’ (meaning abortion) is altered so that the fetal organs may be kept intact, to be bartered and sold. You can say that it’s not human life. And many do. But in this case, using euphemisms is a shield. I suppose we can convince ourselves that the research ‘material’ is not human, until of course, you see a lab tech with tweezers pick up a tiny limb. And though many avoid the implications of this, it just might be that there is a cost, to all of us, even as we shut our eyes. Everything has a cost. Avoidance most of all.**”

Kass continues: “**One myth about America is that we’re a direct people, that we confront what’s out there. We tell ourselves that we’re bold, that we see things as they are, and that once we understand what it is, we deal with it.** But as a culture, with our fixation on entertainment, with America the great marketplace for recreational narcotics, as we bury ourselves in amusing videos on our phones, **I wonder if we’ve become experts at one thing: Avoiding pain. We’re adept at avoiding pain. Actually, we’re great at it.** Billion-dollar entertainment industries feed that need in us. **When the first of the videos became public, many of us hurled anger at safer targets, like the lion-killing dentist. There are plenty of safe targets.** Like mocking stupid remarks made by goofball politicians. I do it. **We’re good at mocking.** Some of us go through life with tongue perpetually in cheek, **using irony as an emotional buffer.** There are plenty of web hits in that, and much profit in snark. And, **like pre-revolutionary France, ridicule has become our true currency. We also divert ourselves with sport. We need sport. We love sport.** We put sport in our pipes and smoke it, and this fall we’ll lay back on our couches and watch the World Series and the Tom Brady redemption drama and talk about athletes as heroes. Still, **the horrifying videos make something all too clear. What’s going on at Planned Parenthood is barbaric. And, since Americans fund Planned Parenthood with our tax dollars, avoiding the issue doesn’t really work. Because the use of our money makes us complicit.**”

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!
Very Rev. Kevin C. Louis, STL

