

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-Wednesday (1/2-1/4).....NO MASS

Thursday (1/5).....8:00AM Communion Service at Spring Valley

10:00AM Communion Service at Spring Valley Healthcare Center

Friday (1/2-1/6).....NO MASS

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday (1-7).....8:00PM Vigil Mass at Elmwood

+Walter Bechel (Ken and Jean Bauer)

Sunday (1-8).....8:30AM Mass at Boyceville

+Gerry Lampman (Jerry and Betty Jean Smith)

10:30AM Mass at Spring Valley

Missa Pro Populo

BRIEFLY NOTED

Attention: Father Prince Away on Vacation: Father Prince will be away for his annual retreat to India to visit his family. Father Prince will be gone from January 2-February 3rd. Please pray that he has a safe trip and be sure to extend gratitude and a warm welcome to our visiting priest, Fr.Joshy Matthew! For any pastoral emergency please contact a neighboring parish priest.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary Soup and Sandwich Dinner: Please join us on Saturday, Jan 21st for a Parish event sponsored by Altar & Rosary Sacred Heart Elmwood. A Soup and Sandwich dinner will be served from 4-7:00pm. The meal is a free will offering and the proceeds will go towards the repairs of the church wall under the balcony. We also invite you to try your luck at **bingo** from 5:00 pm-7:00pm.

A Note of Gratitude: The Sacred Heart Parish would like to thank all the individuals who donated their time, talent, and resources to the renovation of the Br. Michael Center this past year. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and the Center looks wonderful! Thank you!

Spring Valley DAA: Three more families donated \$270 leaving a balance due of \$4386.50. Today we wish to recognize those who not only support our parish through their talents but also have made a contribution to the 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal. If you have not yet donated, you may put your pledge card in the collection or mail it to the central office. Extra pledge cards are available in the church entrance.

St. Luke's DAA: We remain at 67% of our \$6908 Annual Appeal goal leaving a balance due of \$2285. Thank you to all who have already donated to this worthy cause. Please consider donating and help us reach our goal.

Note of Gratitude: The Elmwood Altar and Rosary Society would like to thank the Ilene Bates family for their generous donation in memory of Ilene. May she rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon her!

Elmwood Altar & Rosary: Officers and chair persons will be meeting Jan. 12th at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

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

Thurs. 8 AM to Friday 8AM

Spring Valley

St Luke's Adoration:

There will not be Adoration on January 2 in observance of the holidays. Adoration will resume January 9th.

St. Luke's Pot Luck Sunday:

is January 8th after Mass, please plan to attend. All are welcome!

St Luke's: Please pick up your 2017 contribution envelopes which are on the back table.

Class for Lay Formation:

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. For more information contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at (608) 791-2664.

Sacred Heart, Elmwood:

A big thank you to all the ladies who donated cookies for the homebound! We had a terrific turnout with a great variety! May God bless you for your generosity!

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

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God and the New Year Day, January 1, 2017

On the first day of the New Year we celebrate with joy the feast of Mary the Mother of God. At the same time we celebrate the feast of the Holy name of Jesus. The scriptures tell us that on the eighth day Jesus was circumcised and was given the name as told by the angel. The church celebrates this day as the world day of peace and invites us specially to pray for peace in the world.

Mary is our model of faith, hope and prayer. By accepting her role as the divine mother she gave to the world the God-man who will be with us to the end of times. In the first reading we have God’s people commencing their journey home and to live a new life. God blesses them and promises to be with them. God gives them peace and security. In the second reading Paul reminds us that God’s Son has become one of through Mary. Through him we have become the children of God. We also become aware of Mary’s dignity as the Mother of Jesus and an instrument of God.

In the Gospel the Shepherds communicate to all the good news surrounding the birth of Jesus revealed to them by the angels. It is Mary who treasures them all in her heart. The Gospel also tells us that the Child was given the name that was chosen by God Himself. Today’s special Feast affirms what we Catholics believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary truly is the Mother of God. This Catholic Dogma finds its origin in a Bible passage that is found in the Gospel of Luke. After the archangel Gabriel had appeared to the Blessed Virgin Mary, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Upon her arrival, Elizabeth said to Mary, “And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?” Through Elizabeth who was full of the Holy Spirit, it was proclaimed that Mary was truly the Mother of God. This Marian Feast of the Mother of God reaffirms the teachings of the early Church Councils, that Mary was the mother of Jesus who was both God and human. The Holy Bible supports the truth that Jesus was both God and human and he became one of us for our sake. In the Gospel of John we read, “The Word became flesh and lived among us.”

Today, we are starting a new day and a new year with inner knowledge and understanding of the greatness of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. We greet each other with the same blessing as in the first reading of today: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace. May the peace of the Lord remain within us, our families and communities and bring us the joy and happiness in the year to come. The divine name appears in the Blessing, giving them life and warmth. The graciousness of God may remain with each one of us throughout the New Year.

This January 2017, I will be taking my annual vacation and annual retreat, so I will travel to India on Jan 2, 2017 and will be back on Feb 3, 2017. I am planning to celebrate Mass on the tomb of Mother Theresa of Calcutta during my visit to India. I really thank Fr. Joshy Mathew who will be filling in for me in those weekends. Thanks to our Tri-Parish secretary Becky Schmitt. Thanks to Brother Michael for his generous help.

Rev. Prince Raja

Stewardship for December 24-25, 2016

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

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Retirement for Religious
Spring Valley (12/24)	\$4,287	\$169	
Spring Valley (12/25)	\$3,123	\$84	\$220
Elmwood (will appear next week)			
Boyceville	\$1,055	\$119	\$20

BRIEFLY NOTED

This Week on FORMED: *Looking to start the New Year right? Made a resolution to learn more about your faith this year? Formed.org is the place to start!* If you’re looking to learn more about the faith check out Symbolon on the programs tab. It has 20 sessions designed to lead the viewer through what we believe and why. Want to understand the Bible more? Check out the Bible studies available under the Lectio series. Want to start a small discipleship or faith-sharing group? There are resources to get started with many different topics. All for free! Check it out and get your New Year off to a great and holy start.

Log in to Formed by visiting www.formed.org/register –and entering in Parish Code: **CQH26N**

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.diolc.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@diolc.org or (608) 791-2664. The Discernment Retreat is mandatory for those applying for the class of fall 2017.

Safe Environment: The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (employee, volunteers, vendors, religious or clergy). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to the Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, bishop of La Crosse, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of the Vicar for Clergy or at: www.diolc.org. **Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities.** Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions please contact Monsignor David Kunz, Vicar for Clergy, Diocese of La Crosse, at (608) 791-2679; or dkunz@diolc.org.

