

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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OUR PASTOR: **Rev. Prince A. Raja**
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<u>OUR MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:</u>				
Tuesday	December 12	6:30 PM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Henry Winzig (Family and friends of Henry Winzig)
Wednesday	December 13	7:30 PM	Mass in Elmwood	+All past KC Members (KC Council #6599)
Thursday	December 14	8:00 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Louise Sowatzke (John and Nancy Ellingson)
Friday	December 15	1:30 PM	Mass at Elmwood Assisted Living	+ Charles Bates (Patty Hawkins)
<u>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</u>				
Saturday	December 16	8:00 PM	Vigil Mass in Elmwood	+ Susan Geraets (Bob and Sandra Weix)
Sunday	December 17	8:30 AM	Mass in Elmwood	+ Deb Wiinamaki (Tom and Jean Schmitz)
		10:30 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Debbie Helgestad (Schlegel Family)

CONFESSIONS:

Sunday 7:45-8:15 AM Elmwood
 Tuesday 5:45-6:15 PM Spring Valley
 Wednesday 6:30-7:15 PM Elmwood
 Saturday 7:00-7:45 PM Elmwood

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM Elmwood
 Thursday to Friday 8:00 AM to 8:00 AM Spring Valley

Stewardship for December 2-3, 2017
“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory
Elmwood	\$2,495.00	\$173.00
Spring Valley	\$2,862.00	\$135.41

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Second Sunday of Advent

On this second Sunday of Advent we continue our preparations for the coming of Jesus. That is, we are preparing to celebrate his coming among us as a new-born baby in Bethlehem. Therefore, it is a special time for us to remember with deep gratitude God’s great love for us. The Word of God reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son for our sake that we may have life through him. Again he is the Word made flesh and came to live among us. The coming of the Lord does not fill his friends with fear and anxiety but rather with a kind of joyful anticipation of one friend to another.

The fruit of everyday living the Way of Jesus is a real interior peace that makes us ready to meet him at any time. He invites us to reflect and examine our conscience to see the place of God in our life. The advent is a time for preparation, to straighten the path and fill the valleys and make full preparation for the one who is going to come into our lives. Our God is a waiting God and he is eagerly waiting for our invitation in order to enter into our lives. He is a God of patience and is ready to wait in love. Let us reflect then at this time on what changes we should make in our own lives, not just now but in the year to come, to be the kind of persons, God would like us to be.

The message from today’s readings tells us to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus. With the approaching of Christmas, in the season of advent the church extends to us the call of John the Baptist to repent and confess our sins in preparation for the One who is to come. It is an opportunity to rediscover our total dependence on God. God has made us for Himself, as St Augustine discovered, and our hearts are restless till they rest in God. When we realize this and make room for God in our lives, then we are on the way to true repentance after the example of John the Baptist.

Rev. Prince Raja

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Elmwood News

Diocesan Annual Appeal: With \$10,650 of the \$15,215 target amount paid to the Diocese, we have reached 70% of our goal. If you haven't pledge to the DAA, please help our parish reach the target amount by pledging. Extra pledge cards are available in the church entrance. Please contact Jeff Pittman at 715-235-2827. Periodically view our progress on the DAA thermometer posted in the church entrance.

Altar and Rosary : Christmas party will be Sun. Dec 10th at 12:30 P.M. in the church basement. We will have a short meeting, lunch, games and decorate the church for Christmas ~ please join us.

Spring Valley News

Spring Valley Children's Christmas Program: The Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17th at the start of the 10:30am mass at Sacred Heart, Spring Valley.

The adoration chapel will be open on December 21-22 and December 28-29.

The 2018 Offertory envelopes are in the entrance of the church. If you can't find your box, please notify the central office immediately. Please check the label for accuracy & report any errors to the central office.

Annual Appeal Update: Thank you for the donations to the DAA. The Diocese has received \$13,963.15 toward our \$20,375 target. During this Christmas spirit of giving, please give to the DAA.

The Spring Valley Area Ambulance is hosting its 3rd Annual Holiday Cookie Walk on Sunday December 17th at 10:30 am in the Emergency Services Building- S407 Newman Ave. Plates of cookies will be sold by free-will donations, with 100 % of proceeds going toward the SV Area Ambulance Healthcare scholarship.

Spring Valley Caroling: Anyone interested in spreading Christmas cheer throughout the community is invited to join in the caroling festivities on Sunday December 17, 2017. Carolers should meet at Emmaus Church at 5:30 PM on December 17. Any questions, please contact Dan Connors at 715-688-9185.

News for All

Mass Schedule for Christmas and New Year's: The following information was received from the Diocese regarding Christmas 2017 & New Year's 2018:

The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on December 24. Masses during the day will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, while Masses on Sunday evening will observe the Vigil for Christmas. Catholics are to attend Mass twice for these two occasions. One week later, Sunday December 31, will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family during the morning, while Sunday evening Masses will observe the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. January 1 is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation in 2018.

Based on the above information from the Diocese, Father Prince and the Pastoral Councils of Spring Valley and Elmwood approved the following schedule:

Date	Special Day	Mass Time	Mass Location
Saturday December 23, 2017	4 th Sunday of Advent	8:00 PM	Elmwood
Sunday December 24, 2017	4 th Sunday of Advent	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	NO MASS IN ELMWOOD Spring Valley
Sunday December 24, 2017	Christmas Eve	4:00 PM 8:00 PM	Spring Valley Elmwood
Monday December 25, 2017	Christmas	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Elmwood Spring Valley
Saturday December 30, 2017	Feast of the Holy Family	8:00 PM	Elmwood
Sunday December 31, 2017	Feast of the Holy Family	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Elmwood Spring Valley
Sunday December 31, 2017	Solemnity of Mary	4:00 PM	Spring Valley
Monday January 1, 2018	Solemnity of Mary	8:30 AM	Elmwood

The St. John's Men's 17th Annual Chili & Oyster Stew Supper: Wednesday, December 13th 4:30pm – 8pm @ St. John's Lutheran Church Spring Valley STH 29/Church St. Meal includes Oyster Stew, Chili, rolls, bars and beverages "Free will offering" Also a Bake and Craft Sale and Quilt Raffle. Sponsored by the WELCA

Retirement Fund for Religious: Please help the religious communities! "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. There are envelopes in the pews and the church entrance. Please make your check payable to the parish, and we will send one check to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thank you for your generosity.

This Week in FORMED: Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message - Explore the Marian Event that Transformed the World. Over the course of four days in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego and ignited an extraordinary transformation of the Americas. This gripping film explores the beautiful mystery and ongoing relevance of Our Lady's apparition at Guadalupe. Check out this film on Formed.org. Find all of this content and so much more on Formed.org. Log in to Formed by visiting www.formed.org/register –and entering in Parish Code: **CQH26N**

Keep Christ in Christmas: The Knight of Columbus are providing "Keep Christ in Christmas" yard signs to add to your Christmas decorations. Signs will be available at the Church entrances during Advent. Please help yourself to a sign and have a Merry Christmas.

Volunteer for mission trip to rebuild after Hurricane Harvey: A group of volunteers from St. Henry Watermark Mission, an ecumenical initiative from St. Henry Parish in Eau Galle, will be traveling to Houston, TX, this spring to help with rebuilding efforts for residents most in need in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The group will assist with carpentry, sheetrock, mud, tape, insulation, some electrical/plumbing, paint, flooring, finish work, and landscaping. For more information, contact Gary Asher at 715.283.4451 or rasher@wwt.net.