

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 26	6:30 PM	NO Mass in Spring Valley	
Wednesday	December 27	7:30 PM	NO Mass in Elmwood	
Thursday	December 28	8:00 AM	Prayer Service in Spring Valley	
Friday	December 29	1:30 PM	NO Mass at Elmwood Nursing Home	

<u>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH</u>				
Saturday	December 30	8:00 PM	Vigil Mass in Elmwood	+ Kathy Feuker (Altar and Rosary Society)
Sunday	December 31	8:30 AM	Mass in Elmwood	+All those who died from our Parish in 2017 (Altar and Rosary Society)
		10:30 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ LaMoine Hanson (Leo and Pat Lofgren)

<u>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</u>				
Sunday	December 31	4:00 PM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Tom Ryan (Guy and June Hartung)
Monday	January 1	8:30 AM	Mass in Elmwood	+Kathy Brown (Charles and Jean Bates)

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 16-17th , 2017
“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory
Elmwood	\$ 3295.00	\$ 293.02
Spring Valley	\$ 2180.00	\$ 161.70

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

The Fourth week of Advent is surprisingly short this year. It starts today and it ends today. After all, it's already Christmas Eve. I wish you all God's best at Christmas and in the New Year. May God's love always bless you, His joy always fill you, His presence always keep you close to all that is good. I really appreciate and thank you for all your gifts and Christmas cards that you gave me.

On this last Sunday before Christmas and the readings speak about the preparations that God made for Jesus to be born among us. We wait for his coming into the world and into our lives. As we continue to celebrate the Holy Mass, let us remember that Jesus is with us, here and now, having established His spiritual Kingdom at Bethlehem as he did on the Day of Pentecost. May we remember that by partaking in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in the visible Body of Christ, we are participating in a great feast that is taking place in the invisible Kingdom of God on earth.

It is by saying, with Jesus and Mary, a wholehearted and totally unconditional 'Yes' to Jesus that he will be re-born in me or maybe even born in me for the first time. This Christmas, we need to be very clear about the fact that what we do to make it special is simply nothing compared with God's work in us. Christmas is his work, not ours. It is his coming, for our salvation.

Wishing you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2018.

Rev. Prince Raja

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Elmwood News

Diocesan Annual Appeal: Elmwood has achieved 77.3% of its goal - \$12,210 of \$15,215. Sacred Heart of Jesus in Elmwood has not missed its goal in years; let's keep our record strong! If you haven't sent in your pledge yet, please do so! If you have misplaced your pledge card, we have extra's on the tables in the back of the church. Thank you.

Our churches old snow blower (two stage electric start) is for sale---any offer will be considered. Call Tom Weber at 715-941-1811.

Altar & Rosary: Thank you to Jeanne Bates and Patty Hawkins for the donation for Christmas flowers in memory of; Charles & Juanita Bates, Mabel Bates and Laverne Bates.

Spring Valley News

Annual Appeal Update: Today we wish to recognize those who not only support our parish through their talents but also have made a contribution to the 2017 Diocesan Annual Appeal. The Diocese has received \$15304.58 toward our \$20375 target. If you have not yet donated, there are extra pledge cards in the church entrance.

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

Eucharistic Adoration Help: There is a vacancy on Friday mornings from 6-7 am, if you can help fill this hour, please contact Peg Vorlicek at 778-5786. Thank you.

Year-End Giving: The last collection for the calendar year of 2017 will be the weekend of December 30-31. Contributions are to be applied in the year received. If contributions are mailed, the envelope must be postmarked before the end of the year in order to be applied to this year.

News for All

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

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 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

Brother Michael wishes you all the joy and blessings of Christmas. He thanks you for your kindness and concerns during these many years and he prays that the Peace (PAX) of Christ, a symbol of the Spirit of the Brother of St. Pius X, be with you each day in 2018

New Faith Alive Book on the Beatitudes : Christopher Ruff has written a new book for small groups, titled "Blessed Are You" and centered on the Beatitudes (available Feb. 7). Like the previous books in the Discipleship Series, it includes Scripture, prayer and stories of people who exemplify each theme. It also incorporates discussion questions and a modest service component to put faith in action. To order (\$10 each), call the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at 608-791-0161 or email ministries@diolc.org. Visit www.diolc.org/faith-alive for more information and a preview.

This Week in FORMED: Unwrap the greatest gift ever given with Fr. Larry Richards on Formed.org. With humor, compassion and clarity, Fr. Richards illuminates the true joy of Christmas and inspires us to better recognize, receive and respond to God's immense love for us. Check out this inspiring talk "The Mystery of Christmas" on the home page or the Listen tab of 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**

