

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 (1-12).....8:00 AM Mass at Elmwood

+Audrey Asher (Leonard Asher)

Tuesday (1-13).....NO MASS

Wednesday (1-14).....7:30 PM Mass at Elmwood

+Margaret Kasten (Kathy Schwartz)

Thursday (1-15).....8:00AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Johnny and Lorraine Zignego (Ron Zignego)

Friday (1-16).....8:00 AM *Communion Service at Spring Valley*

1:30 PM Mass at Heritage of Elmwood NH

+Frank Crownhart (Wayne and Pat Nohelty)

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday (1-17).....8:00 PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood

+Walter Bechel (Guy and June Hartung)

Sunday (1-18).....8:30 AM Mass at Boyceville

Missa pro populo

10:30 AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Brice Johnson (David and Rita Johnson)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Spring Valley Right to Life Breakfast: will be held on **Sunday, January 26 from 9am-12:30pm at the CCD Center.** Breakfast will consist of French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit and donuts. Free will donations will be accepted with the proceeds going to the financial, emotional and spiritual support of area women in need of pregnancy assistance. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and help a good cause!

Fazoli Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: The Elmwood CCD Program is hosting a **Fazoli's Spaghetti Dinner at the Elmwood Auditorium on Wed. Feb 11 from 5-8 PM.** The meal is your choice of spaghetti, garden salad, breadsticks, dessert and beverage. CCD Youth are selling tickets for the meal: \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. If at all possible please purchase tickets by February 1. Tickets will be issued at the door the night of dinner. Take-out is available. All proceeds to benefit the Elmwood CCD Youth. For information please contact Marilyn Bowell at 715-664-8975.

Are you called to be a Permanent Deacon? A Discernment Retreat for men who will be held Friday-Saturday, February 6-7 at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon. The retreat is mandatory for anyone who may wish to apply for the new class of deacon formation to begin in the fall. Spouses are asked to attend the retreat as well. To obtain an overview of the Discernment Retreat, the schedule, and a registration form, visit www.dioc.org/diaconate, or contact Christopher Ruff, Director of the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns, at cruff@dioc.org or 608-791-2664.

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

Interparish Pastoral Council : meets on **Tuesday, January 20** at the Spring Valley CCD Center at 7PM. Council members please notify the Central Office if you are unable to attend. Thank you.

St. Luke: Today is Pot Luck Sunday. Please stay and enjoy good food and fellowship. There will be a discussion about planning the 50th Anniversary celebration. Your input is important to the planning process.

St. Luke: Thank you to all who donated to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. St Luke's has exceeded the target amount! All funds collected in excess of the target amount will be returned to the parish.

New Classes of Lay Formation: Registration is now underway for the next two-year cycle of the Lay Formation Institute. Brochures and application forms can be found at www.dioc.org/layformation.

Natural Family Planning Classes: The Couple to Couple League will be offering a series of classes, for engaged and married couples, on the *Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning* at St. Bridget's Church in River Falls, WI. **Classes begin on Saturday, January 24th, at 9:00AM.** Register at <http://twincities.ccli.org>. For information, call 612-721-3791.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

The Christmas Season always seems so short. Oh, I am not talking about the Christmas (or, to be politically correct, “holiday”) advertising blitz to get us to spend our money, an assault that begins during the Summer! Mercifully *that* onslaught ends on December 25! People who view Christmas only through that lens seem to take down their decorations on December 26. And the “holiday” music stations return to their normal programming post haste. In the Church, however, the Christmas Season only *begins* with the celebration of the Lord’s Birth at Christmas Eve. In the current liturgical calendar for our Roman Rite – revised under the directives of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and promulgated in 1969 by the authority of Blessed Paul VI – the Christmas Season extends for several weeks *after* the Solemnity of Christmas and includes the Feast of the Holy Family, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, and today’s Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In fact, there is an ancient custom to extend the Christmas cycle to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2! **Since much of that which surrounds us in the culture purges itself of everything having to do with Christmas so soon afterward, it is important for us Catholics to emphasize the Season throughout its brief duration.** In our parishes we do so by leaving all the beautiful *decorations* in church in place through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Also, throughout the entire Christmas Season we sing the glorious *hymns* that celebrate the Incarnation of our God – hymns in the English language that have stood the test of time being liturgically appropriate because of the solid theology of their texts and their high musical quality.

That which we celebrate today – the **Baptism of the Lord in the River Jordan by John the Baptist** – is recounted for us in the *Gospels* (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:31-34). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* summarizes the import of the baptism of Jesus which “is on His part the **acceptance and inauguration of His mission as God’s suffering Servant.** He allows Himself to be numbered among sinners; He is already ‘the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world’ (John 1:29; see Isaiah 53:12). Already He is anticipating the ‘baptism’ of His bloody death (see Mark 10:38; Luke 12:50). Already He is coming to ‘fulfill all righteousness,’ that is, He is submitting Himself entirely to His Father’s will: out of love He consents to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins (Matthew 3:15; see 26:39). The **Father’s voice** responds to the Son’s acceptance, proclaiming His entire delight in His Son (see Luke 3:22; Isaiah 42:1). The **Spirit** whom Jesus possessed in fullness from His conception comes to ‘rest on Him’ (John 1:32-33; see Isaiah 11:2). Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for mankind. At His baptism ‘the heavens were opened’ (Matthew 3:16) – the heavens that Adam’s sin had closed – and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Spirit, a prelude to the new creation” (536). In his *Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, Saint Hilary of Poitiers* (300-368) notes the significance of the Baptism of the Lord for us as we are baptized: “Everything that happened to Christ Jesus lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us, from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father’s voice, we become sons of God” (2:5).

Congratulations to our own Becky Schmitt who this week began her new job as Director of the Spring Valley Public Library! The Village is fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated young woman to lead this important part of the life of our community. Becky will continue to serve our parishes as Administrative Assistant. During the time of transition her hours in our Central Office will be late afternoon into early evening. A more permanent schedule of office hours will be announced in the coming weeks.

My duties as **Director of Spiritual Formation in our diocesan Permanent Deacon Formation program** take me to Marathon this weekend. The Church in our State of Wisconsin is so blessed to have these faith-filled and talented men – from our own Diocese of La Crosse as well as the Dioceses of Superior and Madison – who are willing to serve us as Permanent Deacons. Pray for them and their formators!

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! Saint Luke, pray for us! *Father Kevin C. Louis, STL*

Stewardship for January 4-5		
<i>“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)</i>		
	Adult Envelopes	Offertory
Spring Valley	\$1471	\$104.35
Elmwood	\$1690	\$196
Boyceville	\$882	\$39
Spring Valley (12/31)	\$480	\$111.40
Elmwood (12/31)	\$65	\$85.05

BRIEFLY NOTED

Elmwood Centennial Ornaments Sale: Elmwood’s Sacred Heart of Jesus, centennial year has come to an end and there are still twenty-one church ornaments remaining. We purposely had the 18 karat gold ornaments designed so they could be bought at any time and not just in 2014. If you did not get a chance to buy one of the memorable ornaments please call Sharon Weber 715-639-3322 or Lois Freiermuth 715-639-3307. They will bring them to Saturday night mass if you call either of them and make that request. Please help Altar & Rosary meet their goal of selling the remaining (twenty one) of the original two hundred ornaments. The cost per ornament is \$15.

