

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 (12-27).....6:30PM Mass at Spring Valley

+Dale Jensen (Herm & Gale Schliys)

Wednesday (12-28).....7:30PM Vigil Mass at Elmwood

+Ilene Bates (Patty Hawkins Bates)

Thursday (12-29).....8:00AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Karon Langer (Langer Family)

Friday (12-30).....NO MASS

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Saturday (12-31).....8:00PM Vigil Mass at Elmwood

Missa Pro Populo

Sunday (1-2).....8:30AM Mass at Boyceville

+Brian Rogers (Becky Rogers)

10:30AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Willard Traynor (Traynor Family)

BRIEFLY NOTED

A Christmas Message: I wish all of you a holy and blessed Christmas and let us thank God for sending His Son Jesus to become one of us and, let us thank Him for seeing Christ in each other! ~ Br. Michael Mandernach

Spring Valley Parish Poinsettia Sale: Thank you to those who purchased Poinsettias from our Sacred Heart youth. We made a profit of \$103 for the youth to attend the Steubenville North retreat this summer and our altar looks beautiful for Christmas! If you would like to take your Christmas poinsettia from the altar after Christmas, you are more than welcome to. Thank you!

Eagle Scout Project: We have a Boy Scout in our Tri-Parishes working on his Eagle Scout Rank by sending Care Packages to the troops. If interested in donating items, the list and donation boxes are in the back. You may place donations in the offertory, but please designate: Eagle Scout Project. We will be collecting items and money until Christmas. Thanks, Tommy Burke

Retirement for Religious Fund: Thank you for supporting the national **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Envelopes are still available at entrances of Church and in pews for your donation. 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.

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 December 26 and January 2 in observance of the holidays. Adoration will resume on January 9th.

Spring Valley Parishioners: Please pick up your 2017 Offertory envelopes which are available in the main entrance of Church..

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

St Luke's: Thank you to those who donated toward the purchase of flowers to decorate the Altar.

Christmas Message from Bishop Callahan:

Dear Friends and Families:
The Joyous news of Christmas is about to explode all around us. I would like to be among the first to thank you for the genuine way in which you make the living Christ present to me. While this has been a trying year for many of us, we have never lost the sense of Christ with us! Good work-even more-good Christian work!
I say this many times, and even more at this time of the year, the People of God expect to *see, hear and experience* Jesus in and through us! (Each of us probably has the same expectations from one another when you come to think...).

My sincere prayers and best wishes are with all of you for a very happy and blessed Christmas! Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,
Bishop William

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

The Nativity of the Lord

Merry Christmas, everyone! This is a beautiful time of the year. It is a time to celebrate family and friends; it is a time of warmth, a time of peace. Thanks for all your greetings and gifts! I am glad to celebrate my second Christmas in United States with you.

The language of God

A young man was intrigued by this question: what language does God speak? He asked people around, what is the language of God? And no one was able to offer him a satisfactory answer. So the young man undertook a journey going in search of the answer to his all-important question. His first stop was a village. He had not experienced the voice of God tangibly. So he continued his journey. After some months of search, he reached a holy place – a temple of sorts. He felt his question was not answered yet.

He continued his pilgrimage. He reached a city. It was getting dark. The city was crowded with people. And people were still pouring in for something important. He went around looking for a place to spend the night. There was no place in the inn. So he was directed to a cave in the outskirts of the city. When he entered the cave, there he saw a young couple with a new-born Child. As the young man stood hesitantly at the entrance, the mother welcomed him in. She showed him the little Child and said, “This is the language of God.”

Like the young man, we are here in our church today to see and hear the language of God that is Christ Child.

God has spoken

In the second reading of mass during the Christmas day, we heard the opening lines of the letter to the Hebrews: “At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son...” (Heb 1:1).

We have reasons to celebrate because God has spoken in a language beyond all spoken language. He is one of us. He has shared our human condition. This is the mystery that we celebrate today: “The word was made flesh, he lived among us” (Jn 1:14). Today, God is seen in the form of a little Child. New born Children generate a sense of awe in us. They create a sense of mystery. Yes, God in Jesus, born today in the form of little Christ Child attracts us. He invites us to see his glory. The little manger in our church with all those statues simply tells us how concrete and tangible God has made himself to be.

Let the celebration of Christmas, then, rekindle in us our own deep desire for God: to hear, see and touch Him.

“The Lord has made known his salvation/All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God,/Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.” (Ps 97). *Rev. Prince Raja*

Stewardship for December 17-18, 2016					
<i>“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)</i>					
	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Christmas	Candles	Religious Fund
Spring Valley	\$3,310	\$104			
\$20					
Elmwood	\$3,245	\$150.80	\$25	\$49.05	\$30
Boyceville	\$476	\$324			\$200

BRIEFLY NOTED

This Week on FORMED: Just in time for Christmas Formed.org has given us a gift with new Children's resources available for the first time online! Check out where the tradition of the Christmas Tree came from with the video adaptation of "Kristoph and the first Christmas Tree" found on the home page of Formed.org. Or join the Altar Gang as they learn about the Church and have other fantastic adventures on the movies tab. There are also saint stories in the audio section to inspire young listeners to lives of holiness. 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.dioc.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@dioc.org or (608) 791-2664. The Discernment Retreat is mandatory for those applying for the class of fall 2017.

Class for Lay Formation Institute Begins in Fall of 2017 - Renew your parish, energize leadership! Registration is now underway for the next two-year cycle of the Lay Formation Institute. Application forms can be downloaded at ww.dioc.org/lay-formation. Or contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at (608) 791-2664.

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.dioc.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@dioc.org.

