

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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**OUR PASTOR:**  
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**OUR MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

Tuesday	September 19	6:30 PM	Mass in Spring Valley	+Rosalie & Brendan Moran (Moran Family)
Wednesday	September 20	7:30 PM	Mass in Elmwood	+Arla Marson (Colleen & Rob Bowen)
Thursday	September 21	8:00 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+Barry Anderson (Anderson Family & Friends)
Friday	September 22	1:30 PM	Mass in Elmwood Nursing Home	+Don Baier (Julie & Bill Richardson)

**THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday	September 23	8:00 PM	Vigil Mass in Elmwood	+Bob Weber (Altar & Rosary)
Sunday	September 24	8:30 AM	Mass in Elmwood	+James & Ilene Bates (Patty Bates Hawkins)
		10:30 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+Don Miller (Dave & Julie Ducklow)

**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 September 9-10, 2017**  
*“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)*

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	Our Lady of Fatima School Mission	Hurricane Harvey Relief
Elmwood	\$1,038.00	\$90.92		\$540.00
Spring Valley	\$2,007.00	\$171.32	\$100.00	\$325.00

**PASTORAL REFLECTION**

**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Forgiveness is a Christian virtue and is the hallmark of our Christian faith and practice. Forgiving the other in the full sense is a form of loving and caring. It is the miracle of a new beginning. It is easy to proclaim the virtue of forgiveness. But the reality is different. C.S.Lewis put it so well, “Forgiveness is a beautiful word until you have something to forgive.” It is hard to forgive someone who has damaged my good name, ruined my career, willfully and maliciously wrecked my life. But why is forgiveness so hard?

First, forgiveness is difficult because it is not natural. The natural human impulse is to get even, to exact revenge. Forgiveness goes against the grain of human existence. Secondly, forgiveness is hard because it is not fair. To forgive without just repayment offends our sense of justice. We want to be vindicated.

Peter makes two mistakes that are apparent to us. First, he assumes that his brother will sin against him and, not he against his brother. And secondly, Peter wanted to set some kind of limit on forgiveness. But we must admit that Peter was being very generous when he suggested seven times forgiveness for an offending brother. In fact the Rabbis of the time taught that one must forgive three times. Peter is more than doubling what the Rabbis taught.

But Jesus teaches him and us that the obligation to forgive is unlimited. The parable makes it clear that an unforgiving person cannot receive God’s forgiveness. The debt that the servant owed his master was too immense for him to repay. A hint that humans can never make up for their sins against God! It is the character of the master, not the character of the servant that produces the release from debt. The master made a decision based on compassion and cancelled the immense debt. In contrast, the debt of the fellow servant was extremely small. And the tragedy was that the servant who was forgiven an immense debt had no heart to forgive a small debt, not even to have patience and wait!

The lessons implied in the parable are clear enough: God’s readiness to forgive the immensity of the wrong which sin does to God and the obligation of every forgiven person to forgive others.

*Rev. Prince Raja*

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## Elmwood News

**Altar & Rosary:** Elmwood Altar & Rosary is in NEED of a treasurer. Must have access to a computer. All records are on a flash drive. Please call Sharon Weber [715-941-1811](tel:715-941-1811) ~ we DO need you!

## Spring Valley News

**Thank You:** A special thank you to Aarynn & Tyler Bosshart, Daniel Buchal, Greg Rosno, Becky Schmitt and Dustin Dodge for sharing your faith journeys with our high school students last weekend!

**Attention Students Being Confirmed in October:** The Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Sunday September 24, 2017 at the Brother Michael Center. The retreat will start at 9:00 AM and conclude at 4:00 PM. Confirmation candidates AND a parent or sponsor are expected to attend. Please contact Kelly Johnson at 715-778-4335 with questions.

## News for All

**Catechetical Sunday:** Sunday September 17 the Church is celebrating Catechetical Sunday, where all our catechists, religious education coordinators, religious education committee members, and other youth leaders are commissioned for their ministry. We extend a very special thank you to all those in our parishes who work with our youth.

**Marriage:** Congratulations to **Ben and Erin (Ingli) Borgardt** who were joined in the **Sacrament of Matrimony in Spring Valley**. "Strengthen, we pray, in the grace of Marriage Ben and Erin, whom you have brought happily to their wedding day, that under your protection they may always be faithful in their lives to the covenant they have sealed in your presence" (*Roman Missal*, 1027)."

**Fall Deanery Meeting/Assembly:** Sacred Heart Spring Valley is hosting the Fall Deanery Meeting on Tuesday September 26. We will begin with Mass at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM, with Father John Schultz as our speaker. Father Schultz is a Senior Priest of the Diocese and during the last year and a half has helped out at Spring Valley, Elmwood, Boyceville, Durand, Lima and Mondovi. Last fall Father participated in an immersion trip with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in Kenya and Tanzania, Africa. He will share this journey of faith with us at our Fall Assembly. Everyone is welcome!

**Pastoral Council Meeting:** There will be a joint meeting of the Spring Valley and Elmwood pastoral councils on Tuesday September 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Brother Michael Center in Spring Valley following the 6:30 PM Mass. Please contact the Central Office if you are unable to attend.

**St. Luke's 51st Annual Fall Dinner:** All are invited to the Annual Fall Dinner at St. Luke's in Boyceville on Sunday October 1 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Mass is at 9:30 AM. The menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberries, dressing, gravy, coleslaw, sweet corn, rolls, and pies. There will be a silent auction, cake walk, Country Story and Garden. Lots of fun for the whole family! See the poster on the bulletin board in the church entrance for full details.

**St. Mary's Assumption Fall Festival:** The Saint Mary's Assumption Fall Festival is coming up on Sunday September 24 in Durand. Mass at 10:00 AM, Festival starts at 11:00 AM. Games, raffles, concessions, silent auction, and much more! See the poster on the bulletin board in the church entrance for full details.

**St. Joseph's Fall Festival (Prescott):** St. Joseph's Falls Festival is Sunday September 17. Mass at 10:00 AM followed by Festival Festivities from 11:00 am TO 2:00 pm. See the poster on the bulletin board in the church entrance for full details.

**This Week in FORMED:** Between natural disasters and societal ills it seems that suffering is all around us and inescapable. What is the Catholic response when faced with pain and suffering? Is God still at work? Why does he allow such things? These are all valid questions in the midst of pain. For a look at some of these questions, and a hope-filled response, check out the following on FORMED.org. "Making Sense Out of Suffering" by Dr. Scott Hahn, "Love Hurts: The Truth Behind Redemptive Suffering" by Matthew Leonard, "Suffering" by Fr. Damian Ference or "15 Things to Do in the Midst of Suffering" by Jeff Cavins, all on the Listen Tab. Find all of this content and so much more on [Formed.org](http://Formed.org). Log in to Formed by visiting [www.formed.org/register](http://www.formed.org/register) –and entering in Parish Code: **CQH26N**

**Men of the Cross Conference:** The 2017 Men of the Cross conference will be held in Chippewa Falls at McDonnell High School on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Speakers include John Pridmore, Fr. Richard Heilman, Jesse Romero and David DeWolf. For more information about the conference and to register, please go to: [www.menofthecross.org](http://www.menofthecross.org)

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