

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

† SACRED HEART PARISH N108 Sabin Avenue Spring Valley, WI 54767	† SACRED HEART PARISH 106 West Wilson Avenue Elmwood, WI 54740
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**OUR PASTOR:**      **Rev. Prince A. Raja**  
 114 Wilson Avenue  
 Elmwood, WI 54740

Phone:            **715-598-4877**  
 Mobile:          715-505-8506  
 Email:            [pastor@svecatholic.org](mailto:pastor@svecatholic.org)

**Central Office:** 715-778-5519  
 S105 Sabin Avenue – PO Box 456  
 Spring Valley, WI 54767

Anne Helmer and Beth Ingli

Email: [admin@svecatholic.org](mailto:admin@svecatholic.org)

<b>OUR MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:</b>				
Tuesday	December 5	6:30 PM	Mass in Spring Valley	+Terry Shafer (Terry and Diane Foley)
Wednesday	December 6	7:30 PM	Mass in Elmwood	+Marion Radle (Altar & Rosary Society)
Thursday	December 7	8:00 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+Mass of Thanksgiving in Honor of the Poor Souls (Brother Michael)
		10:00 AM	Mass at SVHCC	+Tom and Gloria Ryan (Ryan Family)
Friday	December 8	8:00 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>
		1:30 PM	Mass at Elmwood Nursing Home	+ Olivia Pelzel (Greg Fesenmaier)

<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>				
Saturday	December 9	8:00 PM	Vigil Mass in Elmwood	+Tom Mountain (Bill & Roselyn Sylla)
Sunday	December 10	8:30 AM	Mass in Elmwood	+Frank, Adeline and Mary Crownhart (Bill & Anna Crownhart)
		10:30 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+Ivo Schlegel (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 November 25-26, 2017**  
*“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)*

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory
Elmwood	\$1486.00	\$168.00
Spring Valley	\$1456.00	\$77.00

**PASTORAL REFLECTION**

## First Sunday of Advent

I would like to really thank all the volunteers who helped the visiting priests while I was gone. Belated Thanksgiving wishes and I got my visa renewed. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Today we begin the season of Advent. Advent means waiting or coming and we wait for the coming of someone we love. During this season we focus on waiting for the Lord, waiting for the coming of Jesus. We know that Jesus has already come in history and we remember that during the week before Christmas our waiting changes to waiting for our celebration of the birth of Jesus. We also wait for his final coming at the end times when he will take all to himself. We also experience his daily coming into our life through the Eucharist, word of God and also in the various persons and events of life.

Waiting is something very important in the life of the human person. Anytime we wait we do so because we expect something to happen or someone to come. During Advent we look forward to Jesus who will come in a total gesture of love: God becomes man. Today's readings assure us that the Lord is coming. But an individual has to be alert and must be on watch.

The first two readings of this liturgical year bring us face to face with a God who is Father and with the reality of our own sinfulness before him. We have wandered away from him but he is faithful and has sent his own Son to free us from our blame. Prophet Isaiah makes a prayer of yearning, asking God to come and save us from sin. Paul, in the second reading, stresses on the fidelity asking people to remain faithful to Jesus to the end. The Gospel of Mark invites all to a spiritual vigilance. He tells us all to be ever alert so that the coming of the Son does not find us unprepared for no one knows the day or hour of his coming.

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.

**Cookies for home bound.** Ladies of Sacred Heart Elmwood, please bring 1 1/2 dozen cookies to the kitchen on Dec 9 or 10th to be given to our home bound parishioners. Many thanks.

## Spring Valley News

**Spring Valley Children's Christmas Program:** The Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the start of the 10:30am mass at Sacred Heart, Spring Valley. Practice will be at 9:00am at the Spring Valley church on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Contact Amy Peabody at 715-781-3545 or by email at amypeabody@hotmail.com if you have questions.

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

**Annual Appeal Update:** Our balance due is at \$8215. Every dollar pledged will help us pay this bill. When we combine each of our individual gifts with the gifts of thousands of other parishioners throughout the Diocese, each contributor makes a very real difference in the ability of the Diocese to provide ministries and services. Extra pledge cards are available in the church entrance.

**The Spring Valley Area Ambulance** is hosting its 3rd Annual Holiday Cookie Walk on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Poinsettia Sale:** The Sacred Heart - SV Steubenville Youth Group is selling beautiful Christmas Poinsettias again this year to raise money for its annual Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference held each summer at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. An order sheet will be in the entryway of church through December 3rd. You may purchase a poinsettia to keep or to leave in church in honor or memory of a loved one. The poinsettias are grown by the Baldwin Greenhouse - regular size (6" pot) for \$15 or large (8" pot) for \$20. Thank you for your support!

## 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 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	8:00 PM	Elmwood
Sunday December 24, 2017	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>NO MASS IN ELMWOOD</b> 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 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please see the Weekly Mass Schedule for Mass times in our parishes.

**The St. John's Men's 17th Annual Chili & Oyster Stew Supper:** Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 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:** Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. All of us, in some way or another, have benefitted from their many years of service in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes. Often they received little to no pay, and now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the national Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medication, nursing care, and more. The collection for this campaign will be at Holy Mass the weekend of December 9-10. Thank you for your support! Roughly 94 percent of donations to the fund directly aids senior religious and their communities.

**This Week in FORMED:** This week-end we begin the season of Advent and what better way to prepare for Christ's coming than to hear the story in a new way. In the audio talk by Dr. Scott Hahn called Prepare the Way of the King, you'll gain new insight into the story of the shepherds, the Three Wise Men, and King Herod, and the classic Christmas story will come to life. Begin your Advent journey this week by logging into [formed.org](http://formed.org) and listening to Prepare the Way of the King. 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**

**CATHOLIC AND LUTHERAN CONTINUING EDUCATION:** The planning group for the October 29 "From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017" Prayer Service scheduled four sessions of Catholic/Lutheran continuing education after the Prayer Service. The last session is Tuesday, December 5, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 E. Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire. The time is 7:00PM. Presenters are Michael Van Hemert, religion teacher at Regis High School, and Rev. Charles Gavin, retired ELCA Pastor. The subject is Baptism as the basis for unity. The public is invited.

**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.