

# 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)

**OUR MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

Tuesday	December 19	6:30 PM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Barry Anderson (Sowatzke Family)
Wednesday	December 20	7:30 PM	Mass in Elmwood	+ Jeanne Mountain (John and Cindy Sinz)
Thursday	December 21	8:00 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Henry Winzig (Family and Friends of Henry Winzig)
Friday	December 22	1:30 PM	Mass at Elmwood Nursing Home	+ Joanne Schwebach (Wayne and Pat Nohelty)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Saturday	December 23	8:00 PM	Vigil Mass in Elmwood	+ Bill Crownhart (Roger and Sheila Pelzel)
Sunday	December 24	8:30 AM	NO Mass in Elmwood	
		10:30 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Billy and Jeff Anderson and Brody Sotona (Anderson Family)

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

Sunday	December 24 Vigil for Christmas	4:00 PM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ Four year old with cancer (Private)
		8:00 PM	Mass in Elmwood	+ Charles and Juanita Bates (Patty Bates Hawkins)
Monday	December 25 Christmas Day	8:30 AM	Mass in Elmwood	+ Bernard Hofacker (Elmwood Altar and Rosary)
		10:30 AM	Mass in Spring Valley	+ LaMoine Hanson (Lloyd and Jean Greenway)

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

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory
Elmwood	\$2800.00	\$225.29
Spring Valley	\$2998.00	\$134.50

**PASTORAL REFLECTION**

**Third Sunday of Advent-Gaudete Sunday**

Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. The Introit (Entrance hymn or antiphon) for Gaudete Sunday, in both the Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo, is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Gaudete in Domino semper” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”).

The First Reading contains two songs, The song of the Lord’s Anointed and The Song of the Justified. As far as the first song is concerned, Jesus quotes this poem in his inaugural speech in the synagogue of Nazareth and announces that the messianic era has come (Lk 4:16-21) The second song (vv10-11) depicts the nuptial joy of Zion clothed with salvation and righteousness and becoming a holy “shoot” before all the nations.

In the Second Reading, Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to pray for an abiding attitude of joy, prayerfulness and thanksgiving. Spiritual gifts and especially prophecy are not to be suppressed in the community, but to be discerned. Paul is thinking of an ongoing process and expects that when the Lord returns he will find his people completely blameless.

The Gospel of today speaks about the role of John the Baptist. First of all, John the Baptist is not a messianic figure, but a witness. He fulfills his role as witness and denies any messianic claims about himself. He points to Jesus as the “Lamb of God,” and sends his own disciples to him. His testimony diverts attention from himself and points to the Messiah.

The Liturgy of the Word today is full of positive vibes. Let us be sincere and earnest in our Christian lives and live it with joy and thankfulness.

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.

## Spring Valley News

**Our Condolences:** Our deepest sympathy and assurance of prayers are extended to the family and friends of Mickey Traynor from Spring Valley, who died this past week. Mickey worked as the caretaker of the Sacred Heart Cemetery for many years. He treasured the peace and quiet of the cemetery, caring for those who had gone before him. "O God, who alone are able to give life after death, free your servant Mickey from all his sins, that they who believed in the Resurrection of Christ, may, when the day of resurrection comes, be united with you in glory".

**Congratulations :** Allison and Kaitlin Graham are joining the Catholic Faith by receiving Eucharist during mass today. Please welcome them to our Sacred Heart Faith Community.

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

**The 2018 Offertory envelopes** are in the entrance of the church. If you can't find your box, please notify the central office immediately. Please check the label for accuracy & report any errors to the central office.

**Annual Appeal Update:** With the recent donations, our balance due is \$5,895.42. 38% of our families have participated. An average donation of \$47 from the remaining 62% would surpass the \$20375 target. Extra pledge cards are available in the church entrance. During this Christmas spirit of giving, please give to the DAA.

**Christmas Decorating of the church:** will be after 10:30 mass on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to help!

**Spring Valley Caroling:** Anyone interested in spreading Christmas cheer throughout the community is invited to join in the caroling festivities on Sunday December 17, 2017. Carolers should meet at Emmaus Church at 5:30 PM on December 17. Any questions, please contact Dan Connors at 715-688-9185.

## 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 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

**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.

**This Week in FORMED:** As we approach Christmas it is worthwhile to look at these events through Mary's eyes. We can do just that by watching the film Mary of Nazareth on Formed.org. This beautiful film captures Mary's special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Jesus, and the mysterious joys and sufferings she encountered with deep love, profound humility, and unwavering faith. 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**

**Two Marches for Life** – There are two excellent opportunities to march for life once again this year. The Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, runs Jan. 17-21, 2018. Visit [www.dioc.org/yja](http://www.dioc.org/yja) and click on "Pilgrimage for Life" to sign up. The March for Life Chicago is one day only, Jan. 14, and you can sign up by visiting [www.prolifewi.org](http://www.prolifewi.org) and scrolling down to the link. Both pro-life marches have buses leaving from locations around our diocese. The La Crosse Life League is offering five \$30 "scholarships" for the March for Life Chicago. Contact Marie Allen at (608) 799-9196 or [marie.v.allen@charter.net](mailto:marie.v.allen@charter.net) to apply for a scholarship.

**Live Nativity:** St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph Parishes will be hosting a live nativity on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm at the Duck Pond in Plum City. There will be live animals, caroling, and free refreshments at Molly's on Main.