

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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DEACON – Kevin Ray

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OUR STAFF

Central Office

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Administrative Assistant: Ms. Rebecca Schmitt 715.778.5519
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Boyceville Secretary: Mrs. Karen Adams 715.643.3081
boyceville@svecatholic.org

Our Mass Schedule for This Week

Monday (12-28).....NO MASS
Tuesday (12-29).....6:30PM Mass at Spring Valley
+Newell Weiser (Estate)
Wednesday (12-30)7:30PM Mass at Elmwood
+Eileen Bevins (John and Barb Schneider)
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Thursday (12-31).....8:00PM Mass at Elmwood
+Patrick Masse (Jeff and Susan Pitman)
Friday (1-1).....8:30AM Mass at Spring Valley
Missa Pro Populo
4:00PM Mass at Boyceville
+Robert Fischer (Joe and Gloria Pieters)
The Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday (1-2).....8:00PM VIGIL Mass at Elmwood
Missa Pro Populo
Sunday (1-3).....8:30AM Mass at Boyceville
+Ellen Smith (James Smith)
10:30AM Mass at Spring Valley
+Jeff Anderson (Harriet Anderson)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Year of Mercy Booklets: Free booklets, “Embracing the Year of Mercy: Praying with the Holy Father” are available at the church entrances of our parishes. Please take a copy and use for personal prayer in this Year of Mercy.

Spring Valley Altar Server training: will be held 3:30-4:30pm on **Wednesday, January 13, 2016** in the church. Any student wishing to serve should bring the parental permission slip with them. The forms are available at CCD as well as in the back of church.

St. Luke's: Anyone interested in attending a Friday Mass once a month at St. Luke's, please email or call Karen at the church.

Year-End Donations: The Internal Revenue laws stipulate that we must close our parish books for donations on Dec. 31st, 2015. **Any donations received after that will be credited for 2016.**

Spring Valley Parishioners: Your 2016 Offertory contribution envelopes are located in the church entrance. Those without a box or an incorrect address, please inform the Central Office of this error.

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 5:45-6:15 PM
Spring Valley
Saturday 7:00-7:45 PM
Elmwood
Sunday 7:45-8:15 AM
Boyceville

Adoration Chapel: Eucharistic Adoration Chapel will be **CLOSED** on December 31-January 1.

St Luke's: The Adoration Chapel will be closed on Monday, December 28th. Adoration will resume on January 4th.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary:

A new secretary has been appointed for the New Year. We are happy to have Sharon Sinz in this role. Thank you Sharon!

St. Luke's: St. Joan of Arc's circle will meet on Saturday, January 2nd at 9:00am.

Mass Requests: If anyone wishes to have a mass celebrated for a loved one they may place their request in a clearly marked envelope in the collection basket at mass or mail it to the Central Office. Mass stipends are \$10 a mass.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

Go to your app store and search for “myParish-Catholic Life”. Follow the installation prompts, select your parish and stay connected with current parish events and mass times.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Items must be received at the Central Office by **Tuesday at 3:00 PM.**

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Happy and Holy Christmas to you all! To all our visitors: Thank you so much for joining our three parishes in prayer. For our parishioners: thank you for sharing your Christmas gift and greeting cards with me. I am really glad to celebrate my first Christmas in United States with you all. May the baby Jesus bless your families and pour forth his blessings abundantly on all the members of your families. In this Christmas it is important to keep certain things straight. On this feast we must not confuse Jesus and Santa Claus. Now the difference I have in mind is not the usual complaint that Santa Claus is associated with buying gifts and commercialism. The difference I am thinking about goes much deeper. Both Jesus and Santa have a story. Their story reveals who they are and what they stand for. When you compare the two stories, it becomes clear that there is a significant difference between Jesus and Santa.

So what’s Santa’s story? You hear it in many places, but perhaps the clearest summation is found in a song that we hear this time of year. I am sure you know it: You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I’m telling you why. Santa Claus is coming to town. He’s making all lists. He’s checking it twice. He’s going to find out who’s naughty and nice. Santa Claus is coming to town. He sees you when you’re sleeping. He knows when you’re awake. He knows if you’ve been bad or good. So be good for goodness sake!

This is Santa’s story. It tells us who he is. And who is Santa? He is a wonderful old man who brings gifts to those who are good. But only to those who are good. If you cry or pout, if you’re nasty or bad—forget it—Santa is not coming to you. Now I’m not here to complain about Santa or his story. There is nothing wrong with being good. In fact, parents find Santa and his story very useful this time of year. They remind their children that Santa is watching and that they should be good for goodness sake.

Santa’s story is fine. But it is different from the story of Jesus. That difference can be heard in today’s gospel. It is expressed in the song of the angels. They reveal who Jesus is. Jesus is the one who brings “joy to all the people.” Jesus is the one through whom God’s favor rests on all. You see, Santa comes to those who are good. Jesus comes to those who are good and bad alike.

What is revealed in the story of Jesus is that Christmas is not about our goodness, but about God’s goodness. What we celebrate on this feast is not the good things that we have done, but the great thing that God has done in Christ Jesus. Jesus’ story reveals the love of God, which is prior to any of our merits and present despite all of our sins. Christmas is the celebration of the presence of God among us in a way that we can experience His presence, as one of us. His name is Emmanuel, a name that means God is with His people. He is with us, right here, right now, and forever.

Rev. Prince Raja

Stewardship for December 20-21 2015				
<i>“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all He has -done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)</i>				
	Adult Envelopes	Offertory	DAA	Retirement for Religious
Spring Valley	\$2,538	\$731	\$1140	
Elmwood	\$1527	\$260		
Boyceville	\$935	\$259.11		\$10

Elmwood Prayer Circle: Elmwood Sacred Heart updated prayer circle is now posted on the bulletin boards at 3 church entrances. Prayer circle members will also receive updated lists. Please note the changes made in the person you call. Thank you.

Retirement Fund for Religious: Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care and more. Please be generous. *Envelopes for your contributions can be found at the entrances of Church.* Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Gospel of John and the Miracles of Jesus: On Wednesday evening, January 20th, Msgr Mark Pierce will be speaking at St. Joseph School in Prescott on the Gospel of John and the Miracles of Jesus. There will be a supper at 5 pm and the presentation at 5:30 pm. \$10 fee per person. Msgr Pierce is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker on the Bible. Interested persons may contact Barbara Schneider for more information and/or ride share: 715-647-2122 Certification credit is available for CCD teachers.

Spring Valley's DAA update: A huge THANK YOU to those who have already helped pay \$14359.99 of our \$19910 assessment. To the Parishioners who have not returned a pledge card, the parish would appreciate the return of your card. Consider using the monthly payment option with the final payment due June 30th. If you're unable to make a pledge, indicate to the Diocese by returning the card with a "0".

Year of Mercy Diocesan Website: The Diocese has provided a website with material on the Year of Mercy. Visit <http://sites.dioc.org/mercy/> for information on corporal and spiritual works of mercy, a list of pilgrimage churches in our diocese, devotional resources and much more!

