

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 (12-6).....6:30PM Mass at Spring Valley
+Audrey Tschumperlin (Karen Sylla)

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holyday of Obligation

Wednesday (12-7).....7:30PM Vigil Mass at Elmwood
+Joanne Schwebach (Catholic Financial 191)

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

+Lorne Hanson (Hanson Family)

6:00PM Mass at Boyceville

Missa Pro Populo

Friday (12-9).....1:30PM Mass at Heritage of Elmwood NH

+Elwin Brunner (Cecilia Milliren)

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday (12-10).....8:00PM Vigil Mass at Elmwood

Missa Pro Populo

Sunday (12-11).....8:30AM Mass at Boyceville

+Gerry Lampman (John Lampman)

10:30AM Mass at Spring Valley

+Gen Miller (Barry and Mary Anderson)

BRIEFLY NOTED

St Luke's Usher Meeting: There will be a meeting of the ushers after Mass on December 4th to discuss the schedule for the upcoming year. We are in need of one or two more volunteers. See Paul Zimmerman for information.

Elmwood CCD Reminder: All students were provided a copy of the "Act of Contrition" prayer and should practice it for the upcoming Reconciliation program on Wednesday, Dec. 7 in Elmwood. This is a requirement for 3rd grade through high school, students will be required to sign in for confessions. Fr. Prince will be available from 5:30-7:20 pm to hear confessions. Students may come and go for confession at their leisure or stay for 7:30PM Mass.

Luke's: We remain at 65% of our \$6908 Annual Appeal goal leaving a balance due of \$2410. Thank you to all who have already donated to this worthy cause. Please help consider donating and help us reach our goal.

Spring Valley DAA: Our balance due remains at \$6,462. Every dollar pledged will help pay this bill. When we combine our individual gifts with the gifts of thousands of other parishioners throughout the Diocese, each contributor makes a real difference in the Diocese's ability to provide ministries and services. Pledge cards are available in the church entrance.

Elmwood Altar and Rosary Society: Ladies, the Christmas Party will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 at 12pm and cookies will be distributed to the homebound. Contact Berneice Asher with any questions. Thank you.

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

Monday 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Boyceville

SV Adoration Chapel:

The Adoration Chapel will be closed December 8 and 9 due to the December 8 Holyday of Obligation. Adoration hours will resume the following week.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

4:00PM at Spring Valley

8:00PM at Elmwood

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

8:30AM at Boyceville

10:30AM at Spring Valley

Advent Message from Bishop:

"This Advent, renew your sense of tradition, or perhaps start a new way to mark this time in the Church Year as we await the Savior's birth. Take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend Mass more frequently, and make time to pray. Prayer is our connection with our Heavenly Father who grants us everything that is good. Blessed Advent to you; let us wait together in joyful hope!" ~Bishop Callahan

FORMED LOG-IN INFO

To setup an account visit:

www.formed.org and enter the Parish Access Code: **CQH26N**

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

Search for "myParish-Catholic Life" in your app store. Follow installation prompts, select your parish to stay connected with parish events and Mass times.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.svecatholic.org

Second Sunday of Advent
John the Baptist: The One Who Knew His Space

One of the persons that the Liturgy of the Word during the season of Advent draws our attention to is John the Baptist. From the narrative of Evangelist Matthew, there are three qualities that stand out in John the Baptist: his simplicity, humility and clear understanding of the purpose of his life. These are perhaps virtues that we too are invited to grow in as we look forward to the coming of Christ.

Simplicity: Dressed for the journey

Matthew describes the physical appearance of John the Baptist in some detail. “John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.” (Mt 3:4). There are different levels of meanings here. At one level there are clear parallels to the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). His clothing was a camel’s hair garment as that of Elijah (2 Kings 1:8); and his food was similar to the one that was supplied by the desert: locusts (Lev. 11:22) and wild honey (Ps. 81:16).

At another level, and not unrelated to the first level, John’s clothing reiterates his role as a prophet. And the food habit portrays a man who does not have time to settle down, cultivate, and cook his food. He is on the move. He is on a journey. That image brings out his message – detachment and repentance, and his mission – to be a forerunner.

Humility: The right perspective of the self

In short, John the Baptist offers a good definition of humility: to have a right perspective of the self, and not to overestimate one’s own worth. He must have been a satisfied person. John stands out as one who was satisfied with what he possessed, very at home with what he thought he was, and gratified with his own ministry. The element that added gratification was the clarity of his mission and a sense of purpose.

Purpose: Clear understanding of his mission

John the Baptist had a right understanding of his role in history. Even before his birth, and in his life and death he went on to live the mission for which he was born on the face of the earth. When John was born his father prophesied, “And you, little child ... you will go before the Lord to prepare a way for him, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins” (Lk 1:76-77). And that is exactly what John the Baptist went on to fulfil in his life.

The greatest challenge in our own life is in finding our space in the universe. We call this, ‘Will of God’. I would call it, the dream that God has for us. God created us in a unique way for a unique purpose. There is a unique space in the universe for each one of us. If I do not fill that space I would leave a vacuum in the history of the universe. On the other hand, our own happiness and wellbeing consists in finding that space and meaningfully filling it. Often in our prayers we ask God to give us this and give us that. Essentially we need to listen to God – listen to his dreams for us. When our desire meets with the desire that God has for us, it is like the whole universe moves for us. We experience fulfilment, gratification and wellbeing. *Rev. Prince Raja*

Stewardship for November 26-27, 2016

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

	Adult Envelopes	Offertory
Spring Valley	\$1,515	\$107
Elmwood	\$2,665	\$97
Boyceville	\$625	\$117.05

BRIEFLY NOTED

Poinsettia Sale: Poinsettias are being sold by the Sacred Heart-Spring Valley Youth to raise funds for the Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference being held at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul next July. Poinsettias may be purchased to give, keep, or to leave in church in memory of a loved one. They will be delivered the Sunday before Christmas. There are 6" plants for \$12.00 or 8" plants for \$18.00. An order sign-up is located in the entrance of the church - orders will be taken until Dec. 7th. Thank you for your support!

This Week on FORMED: *This week we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception where we celebrate God's special grace bestowed upon Mary that she was conceived without sin.* She is our model of Holiness and so we strive to follow her example of humble obedience to the will of the Father. Tim Staples offers great insight into the Marian doctrines and how they are so important in our spiritual lives in his presentation *Mary: the Indispensable Mother of God* found on the Audio tab of Formed.org. Log in to Formed by visiting www.formed.org/register –and entering in our Parish Code: **CQH26N**

Spring Valley Children’s Christmas Program: The Children’s Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18th before the 10:30am mass at Sacred Heart, Spring Valley. Practices will be at 9:30am at Spring Valley church on Sunday, December 11th. Contact Amy Peabody at 715-778-5911 or by email at amypeabody@hotmail.com if you would like your child to participate in the program.

