

SAINT LUKE - SACRED HEART CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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| <p>†SAINT LUKE PARISH 919 Center Street Boyceville, WI 54725</p> | <p>†SACRED HEART PARISH N108 Sabin Avenue Spring Valley, WI 54767</p> | <p>†SACRED HEART PARISH 106 West Wilson Avenue Elmwood, WI 54740</p> |
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PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Arockia Amirtha Raj Stanislaus
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Cell Phone: 715-574-4265
Email: pastor@svecatholic.org

PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER:

Karen Adams 715-643-3081
Email: stlukebv@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Thursdays 1 – 4:30 p.m.

CENTRAL OFFICE:

Beth Ingli 715-778-5519
Email: admin@svecatholic.org

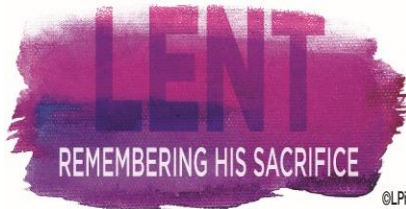
Mass Intentions This Week:

Sunday Mar 14 11 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent
+Allan Hemann
Requested by Karen Hemann

Thurs. Mar 18 10 a.m. +Peter Johnson
Requested by Joe & Karen Adams

Sunday Mar 21 11 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent
Parishioners of St Luke's

Adoration: Mondays 6 a.m. – 5 p.m.



"I am the light of the world, says the Lord, whoever follows me will have The light of life." John 8:12

Dear Parishioners of Spring Valley, Elmwood and Boyceville,

Today we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent. The focus of the readings today is the mystery of God's mercy in the light of human sin. The first reading tells us that the people of Israel added infidelity to infidelity, they practiced the abominations of the nations, and they polluted the Temple of the Lord. We are also told about God's attempts to bring the people back by sending prophets to speak His word to the people. They mocked and scoffed at the prophets and they despised God's warnings.

When it was so bad that no remedy existed, God allowed Jerusalem to be burned and the Temple to be destroyed. The people who lived through this horror were taken to captive Babylon. They remained in Babylon for seventy years.

This sounds like God was taking vengeance on the people as opposed to being merciful. Quite the opposite is true. As we have seen, God gave the people multiple opportunities to repent. He gave them a clear Law which they chose to disobey. He gave them special dignity as His chosen people, but they wanted to live like the pagans around them.

God's allowance of the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of the people was merciful because it caused them to consider what they were doing and turn their lives around. Toward the end of the reading we hear about the crowning point of God's mercy which took place in a manner no one would have expected: God raised up a pagan king who had never even heard of God or Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and to bring the people back to their own land.

We see a similar pattern in the other two readings as well. St. Paul speaks about how God is rich in mercy. Once again, this mercy is shown in the light of our transgressions. So grievous were these offenses against God that St. Paul says we were dead in our transgressions. But God's love for us brought us to life in Christ Jesus and even raised us up as His beloved children to Heaven.

While it is unthinkable that God would come to us as a human being, it is not even comprehensible that He would die for us on the Cross. Yet this is what our Lord tells Nicodemus: the Son of Man must be lifted up so everyone who believes in Him might have eternal life. So, what is required is not merely the prayer for mercy, but accepting how God has answered that prayer by sending His Son to die for us.

As we see in our Lord's words, there is a requirement of faith: we have to believe in Him in order to have eternal life. St. Paul says the same thing: "by grace you have been saved through faith." But St Paul adds "this is not from you; it is a gift from God." Once again, God has taken the initiative. When so many people went astray before the Babylonian exile, one has to wonder how many people were actually grieved by these actions; how many prayed for mercy?

Today many people have gone off track in the Church and they continue to go further away from God each day. We need to pray for mercy, and also be prepared to accept the way God answers these prayers.

Rev. Arockia Stanislaus.

STEWARDSHIP

*"We walk by faith, even when we cannot see" 2 Corinthians 5:7
Everything is a gift from God.*

You may drop your envelopes in the offertory box which is on the back table in church, or you may mail your contribution to St Luke at: PO Box 316, Boyceville, WI 54725

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| Loose Collections | Envelope Collection | Special Collections |
| \$ | \$ | \$ |

Web address: www.saintlukebv.org

For the faithful departed we pray:

Frances Knopps, Wes Tuttle, Bruce Kahl, Aaron Upton, Corrine Janicki, Rita Bodine

For the sick we pray:

Kaleb Humpal – Recovery from injury – carotid artery damage

Scott Anderson - Cancer

David Buck – Cancer

Options for Women

Quinn Miano – brother of Betty Jean Smith

Betty Jean Smith

Mason Mrdutt - Seizures

Calendar of Events

Stations of the Cross – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. through March 24

40 Hours of Adoration – March 18 – 20th

Palm Sunday – March 28th at 8:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday – 7 p.m. in Spring Valley

Good Friday – 1:30 p.m. in Spring Valley

"The Last Seven Words of Christ" – in Boyceville

Holy Saturday – 8 p.m. in Spring Valley

Easter Sunday – April 4th at 10:30 a.m.

BECOME INVOLVED: MEMBERSHIP AND SACRAMENTAL

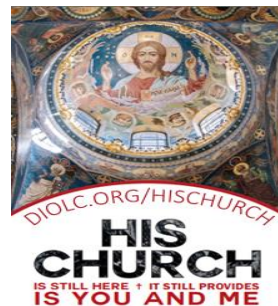
Joining Our Parish: If you are new to the parish, please call the parish office to register. We are glad you are here.

Celebrating Baptism: Baptism is celebrated throughout much of the liturgical year. If you want to raise your child in the Catholic faith and celebrate your child's baptism, please call the parish office, 715-643-3081 for more information. Parents celebrating the baptism of their first child are asked to complete a baptism orientation class.

Caring for the Sick: If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound or anticipating surgery, please call 715-598-4877 or email Father Amir at pastor@svecatholic.org to schedule a visit and/or the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Celebrating Marriage: We eagerly welcome couples seeking to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. Contact Father Amir to talk about scheduling your wedding and to learn more about marriage preparation.

Becoming Catholic: If you are baptized in another Christian tradition and seek to become Catholic, or are interested in becoming a Christian through baptism, contact Father Amir at pastor@svecatholic.org.



Diocesan Annual Appeal

Target Amount \$6,820

Amount pledged \$5,275

Unpledged \$1,545

21 families participating

THANK YOU

Lent is a time to fast from certain things and feast on others. It is a season in which we should:

Fast from anger and feast on patience;

Fast from words that pollute and

Feast on phrase that purify;

Fast from worry and feast on Divine order;

Fast from complaining and feast on appreciation;

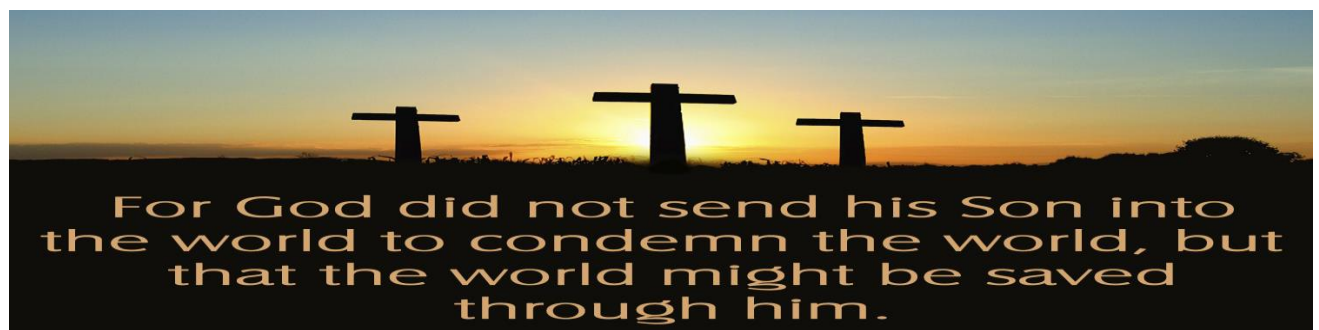
Fast from discouragement and feast on hope;

Fast from idle gossip and

Feast on purposeful silence.....

40 hours Adoration—A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a sharing in the work of Redemption. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be in Spring Valley beginning with Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 18th with Adoration beginning at 6 pm continuing through Saturday, March 20th and ending with Mass at 10 am. Contact Paul or Rita to sign up for a particular hour, or simply stop by at any convenient time.

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 stations focus on specific events of His last day. The Stations of Cross are on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. through March 24th.



March 13-14, 2021

