

SAINT LUKE – SACRED HEART CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Arockia Amirtha Raj Stanislaus
Rectory Phone: 715-598-4877
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

Until further notice: ALL MASSES ARE CANCELED. During this time, Father Amir will continue to celebrate private Masses and will pray for those intentions that have been requested.

Mass Intentions This Week:

Sunday May 3 - Fourth Sunday of Easter
Parishioners of St Luke's

Thurs. May 7 - Parishioners of St Luke's

Sunday May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter
Parishioners of St Luke's

ADORATION: Monday 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & EMERGENCIES:

Contact Father Amir at 715-598-4877

Web address: www.saintlukebv.org

STEWARDSHIP

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Luke 12:34)

We ask that you continue to use your offertory envelopes each week, as we still have bills to pay. 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

April 2020

Envelopes \$2,075.00 Loose \$226.00

Thanks so much!

Sacred Heart-St Luke's is now on Facebook! Father Amir will be celebrating Masses, Tuesday – Sunday at 10 a.m., and you can watch them LIVE or at your convenience on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/springvalley.elmwood.5>

The Church will be open during the hours of 1 – 5 p.m. on Thursday afternoons and any parishioner is welcome to come and pray at this time. Adoration will also continue on Mondays from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the main body of the church. You are asked to enter at the side door by the chapel.

New Mass Time: When things return to “normal” St Luke's will have a different Mass time. Our Mass time will move to 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please mark your calendars with this upcoming change.

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone for their support in the 40 Cans for Lent campaign. The donated items and monetary donations were presented to West Cap Food Pantry.

Spring Housecleaning Time! Now is the perfect time for the spring housecleaning to be accomplished here at St Luke's. There is a list of jobs which need to be tackled on the back table. Please help us get ready for the time when we can worship together again in a nice clean space. We ask that cleaning be done Tuesday – Saturdays since Monday is reserved for Adoration. Thanks so much!!

Options for Women of Menomonie, like every charity and religious organization, is experiencing difficulty in maintaining its operating budget. They are asking that you prayerfully consider making a donation at this time to enable them to serve their clients, both born and unborn. They have recently moved to a new facility and donations can be mailed to them at: 544 Broadway Street South, Suite 404, Menomonie, WI 54751

For all the faithful who have died and for the sick, we pray: Jim Smith – effects of chemo for colon cancer, David Buck - Cancer, Corinne – sister of Dennis Hill who had a stroke, Repose of the soul of Shawn Berg, son-in-law of Terry Mohn, Bruce – Cancer, Debbie McNamara – Cancer, Betty Jean Smith – recovery after knee surgery, Kaleb Humpal – eye/sight issues, Repose of the souls of Lynn Zimmerman and Doris Squillace. The work of: Options for Women, pregnancy care center

“I am the Gate. Whoever enters through Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”

~John 10:9

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

We celebrate the fourth Sunday of Easter which is usually called the Good Shepherd Sunday in which we celebrate the feast of Christ Jesus who willingly laid down his life for his flock. We celebrate our shepherd because, he loves and cares for us in all circumstances. He is willing to lead all who follow and obey him to the spring of eternal life.

Today's first reading narrates the events of how the apostles continued to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. One significant point to note today is that they have moved a step further, by bringing the good news to the gentiles who accepted it with joyful hearts. This shows that Christ came for the salvation of all his flock. As the good shepherd of all nations, He offers us salvation and protection through the good news. This is because, it is his wish that all be saved.

Although he came to the Jews first, it was also his plan to save all nations. Unfortunately, due to ignorance, pride and stubbornness the Jews rejected him. However, this became a blessing for the gentiles who are now God's elect. Like the Jews of Christ's time, is there any way we are rejecting the good news today? "Any form of stubbornness, or resistance against the good news we hear every day is a sign of rejecting Christ as the Jews did. Also, one could reject Christ through lack of faith, or even by not recognizing him in others.

In our second reading, through the vision of John, God assures us that Christ our Good Shepherd is willing to welcome and save all his children. Hence, John tells us: "I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe, and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb." Through his son Jesus Christ, God is ready to lead us to the spring of eternal salvation. His mercy, love and salvation do not discriminate, and his kingdom is open to all his flock. This is especially to all who humbly and cheerfully embrace him. God's salvation is like a free-flowing spring. However, only those who are faithful to him, and have cleansed themselves in the blood of the lamb could draw life from this spring of life.

Today's gospel is very precise. However, it bears a very powerful message for all of us who according to the psalmist are: "The sheep of God's flock." Naturally, we know that rights go with duties. So, this reading notifies us of our duty as Christ's flock: "The sheep that belongs to me listens to my voice and they follow me." On the other hand, it also specifies the responsibility of Christ, the Good shepherd towards us: "I give them eternal life, they will not be lost under my protection, and no one will ever steal them from me." Hence, if we heed the voice of Christ, we are assured of his love, care, and protection. Christ our good shepherd never fails.

So, as the sheep of God's flock, let us heed the daily call of Christ our good shepherd who says: "Behold I stand at the door of your heart and knock. If you open the door, I will come in" (Rev 3:20). Yes, Jesus the good shepherd of all nations stands there patiently knocking. He wants to lead us to the stream of eternal life. So, let us not walk away from Him. The psalmist advises us thus: "Oh that today you will listen to his voice, harden not your hearts" (Ps 95:8). May the Almighty God grant us the wisdom and grace to continue to respond obediently to Christ our Good Shepherd.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

St. Joseph – We need his intercession! Bishop Callahan is inviting all to celebrate a “Year of St. Joseph” in the Diocese of La Crosse beginning May 1, 2020 on the Feast of St. Joseph the Workman. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pius IX's decree naming St. Joseph Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. Bishop Callahan will open this important “Year” with Mass live-streamed from the Cathedral at 12 noon. Learn more at dioc.org/year-of-st-joseph. Why is it so important that we turn to St. Joseph for his help during these very difficult times?

Four of St. Joseph's numerous titles provide a brief sampling of the importance of St. Joseph as our spiritual father.

- As Head of the Holy Family, you can ask for his protection and safety for each member of your family.
- As Comfort of the Afflicted, you can turn to him for comfort through the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As Hope of the Sick, you can turn to him for hope if you or someone you know is sick.
- As Patron of the Dying, you can entrust those who are dying to him, as St. Joseph died a happy death gazing upon Jesus and resting in the arms of Mary. God desires that each one of us die a happy death, similar to that of St. Joseph.

May 2-3, 2020