

SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



PASTOR Rev.
Dr. Fr. Anbalagan
Shanmugam
(Father Anbu)



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Elmwood, WI
54740

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Beth Ingli
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MISSION STATEMENT

We, the community of Sacred Heart parishes, in Spring Valley and Elmwood, and St. Luke's in Boyceville, love the Lord Jesus Christ and are dedicated to His Sacred Heart. Guided by the Word of the Lord, we commit ourselves to give praise and honor to God through liturgical worship, family and private prayer, and service to one another. We strive to develop a living faith and a growing spiritual community by providing opportunities for spiritual, educational, and social enrichment. Our faith will be strengthened through active involvement of all members.

WEBSITE: WWW.SVECATHOLIC.ORG

SUNDAY JANUARY 4, 2026



SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH
SPRING VALLEY
N108 Sabin Avenue
Spring Valley, WI 54767

SACRED HEART PARISH
ELMWOOD
106 West Wilson Avenue
Elmwood, WI 54740

ST. LUKE'S PARISH
BOYCEVILLE
919 Center Street
Boyceville, WI 54725 Office
Phone 715-643-3081
St. Luke's Email:
stlukeboyceville@gmail.com
www.saintlukebv.org

SPRING VALLEY PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jim Huebel Peggy Larson Isaac Nilssen
Teresa Nilssen Jessie Shafer Renata Wood
SPRING VALLEY FINANCE COUNCIL
Greg Buchal Jason Nilssen Anna Toutant
Bookkeeper: Amy Shafer

ELMWOOD PASTORAL COUNCIL

Derek Auth Sue Galoff Greg Fesenmaier
Charlet Keenlyne Jeff Pelzel Barb Schneider
ELMWOOD FINANCE COUNCIL
Craig Feuker Holly Galbreath Jim Schwebach
Bookkeeper: Shelley Sand

BOYCEVILLE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Karen Hansen Bonnie Cronk Debra Hoage
Tom Humpal Terry Mohn LaVern Weber
BOYCEVILLE FINANCE COUNCIL
Joey Boesl Lesley Nelson Joe Pieters
Bookkeeper: Judy Humpal

Dear Parishioners of Spring Valley, Elmwood and Boyceville,

I hope you all had a beautiful Christmas! Let us hope 2026 brings lots of happiness, unity, peace and health.

“Our life is a journey, illuminated by the lights which brighten our way, to find the fullness of truth and of love which we Christians recognize in Jesus, the Light of the World. The destiny of every person is symbolized in the journey of the Magi of the East,” Pope Francis. Today, we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany, in Greek, is epiphaneia which means, ‘appearance.’ This feast originally celebrated on January 6 which was popularly known as the feast of the Three Kings. Epiphany commemorates and celebrates principally the self-revelation to the Gentiles (non-Jews, the magi) and thus to our ancestors in the faith, of Jesus Christ as the Savior as portrayed by the coming of the three wise men or magi.

The magi were learned people. Yet their knowledge had not gone to their head but they rather tried to follow their better insight. When they found Jesus, they offered Him three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Let us turn to the symbolism of these gifts.

The first gift was the gold. Among ancient people, gold was regarded as the king of metals. It was therefore the ideal gift for a king. The magi gave Jesus all their love as pure, solid, lasting and as purified from selfish motives. They wanted to love Jesus with all their heart and mind. God symbolizes fidelity and perseverance. Their love was sincere.

The second gift was the frankincense. Ancient people used incense in their religious worship. The aroma and smoke, spiraling upward to heaven, spoke to them of gods and divinity. The gift of incense, therefore, is a symbol of the divinity of Jesus. It tells us that Jesus always had the nature of God but became like man and appeared in human likeness (Phil 2:6-9).

It has been used as a symbol of adoration. The magi adored Jesus as God. Even today we use incense in the liturgy as a sign of worship. In particular, we incense the gospel in which Jesus is present, the altar representing Christ and the gifts of bread and wine on the altar which will become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The third gift was myrrh. Among ancient people, myrrh was used to prepare the dead for burial. For example, the women brought myrrh to the tomb of Jesus. Because of myrrh’s relationship with death, it made an ideal symbol of human vulnerability.

The gift of myrrh, therefore, is symbolic of the humanity of Jesus. It speaks to us of Jesus’ human vulnerability. Like us, He experienced the whole range of human emotions: sorrow, joy, fear, frustration, loneliness, anger and others. He was like us in all things but sin.

Like the magi, let us give our love, fidelity, perseverance and sincerity to Jesus.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,
Father Anbu



The Three Wise Men

Question: Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men...who were they?

Answer: We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There’s a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men magoi. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean “magician,” but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire. We’re not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says “the east.” History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts “from afar” at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.



INFORMATION

News For All



What did people say at the 40 listening sessions this fall? Those comments are now available for viewing, along with a summary of the top trends. You can also check out a brief video from Fr. Derek Sakowski sharing a Christmas story illustrating what it means to “pivot from maintenance to mission” <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>



In 2026 Father Anbu will be recognizing married couple the first weekend of each month

with a special blessing for those couple celebrating an anniversary that month. So this weekend, before the final blessing, Father Anbu will ask those couples to stand who will be celebrating their anniversary in January and will then say a special prayer for you.

We will not be publishing any birth-days or anniversaries this year in the bulletin. However, you may request a milestone birthday or anniversary be included in the bulletin.



MASS INTENTIONS ARE NEEDED for Boyceville, Elmwood and Spring Valley for 2026. By offering a Mass for a loved one, we continue to show our care for them and reinforce the bond of the communion of saints. To request a Mass intention, please contact the Central office at 715-778-5519 or email requests to Beth at admin@shsv.diolcparish.org for Elmwood and Spring Valley requests and Judy in Boyceville at 715-643-3081 or stlukeboyceville@gmail.com



Knowledge of Truth: Faith and reason guide us

Truth is not some-thing we invent. It is something we receive from God, discover through reason, and share with others. Truth corresponds to reality as it truly is, and its ultimate source is God, who is Truth itself (John 14:6). When people claim that everyone can have their own truth, there is no longer a shared foundation for right and wrong. The full bulletin insert, written by Fr. David Olson, is available <https://diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts/>

Boyceville News

Mitten Tree - St. Jessica’s mitten tree collection will be wrapping up soon. Many little hands and heads will stay warm thanks to your wonderful donations. Thank you for your support of this project.



Upcoming events:

- 1/15 - St. Jessica Circle meeting following Mass
- 1/17 - Potluck following Mass
- 1/22 - St. Luke Altar Society meeting following Mass

Elmwood News

Those Christmas trees and decorations were moved by our professional lifters Dec. 14, and we are all indebted to them. Sorry to say, it's already time to ask for help on Sunday, Jan. 11, after Mass, to move the trees and creche back to the choir loft and the garage. We know you didn't make it a New Year's resolution, but please consider offering your time and strength once again. God bless you!



Elmwood Sacred Heart

parishioners - YOU and YOUR FAMILY are invited to the Knights of Columbus Christmas Party next Sunday, January 11, 2026

beginning at Noon. A complete meal of chicken, ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, cheesecake and beverages will be provided. A freewill offering will be accepted and 100% of proceeds will be given to Options for Women organization. Door prizes and fun for all! Please join us!

Spring Valley News



The PCCW invites you to come for fellowship, delicious donuts and coffee today after 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Br. Michael Center!



The Sunday Children's Liturgy

will be offered the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting on January 11th. Children, ages 4K-2nd grade will attend the beginning of 10:30 a.m. Mass with their parents until the end of the Introductory Rites when Fr. Anbu will invite the children to come forward for a blessing and dismiss them from Mass with the Children's Liturgy volunteers where they will then gather in the sacristy and return to the church immediately after the Prayers of the Faithful.



Save the Date for the 19th Annual Sacred Heart of Jesus “Right To Life” Breakfast – Sunday, January 18th from 9am-12:30pm in the Brother Michael Center.

The Finance Council has updated the rental form for the Brother Michael center. Anyone using the center, for meetings or social gatherings, needs to contact Beth in the office to schedule your dates and fill out the form. A calendar has been posted on the bulletin board in the center and Beth will add events to it, once the form has been received. Thank you.

Please send Bulletin Announcements to: admin@shsv.diolcparish.org
By NOON on Wednesdays



FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WHO HAVE DIED AND FOR THE SICK, WE PRAY IN 2026

- January 6 Tuesday Mass in Elmwood**
7:00 p.m. +Jo Baier (Tom & Jean Schmitz)
- January 7 Wednesday Mass in Spring Valley**
6:15 p.m. +Karen Loenser (Gabby & Isaac Nilssen)
- January 8 Thursday Mass in Boyceville**
10:00 a.m. +Helen Hedlund (Joe & Gloria Pieters)
- January 9 Friday Mass at the Elmwood Asst. Living**
10:00 a.m. +Goldene Weiss (John & Barb Schneider)
- January 10 Saturday vigil Mass in Boyceville**
4:00 p.m. +Peter Johnson (Ken & Karen Hansen)
- January 11 Sunday Mass**
8:30 a.m. in Elmwood ~Living & Deceased members of the Sacred Heart parish (Catholic Life Financial Branch 191)
10:30 a.m. in Spring Valley +Percy & Rochelle Lansing (John & Nancy Ellingson)

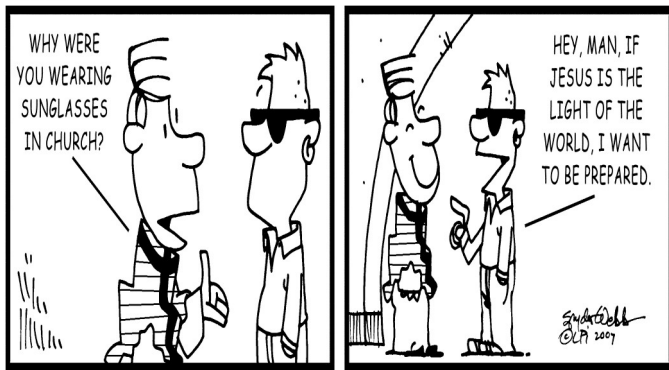


Diocese Annual Appeal The Diocese has received to following from the three parishes for the 2025-2026 Diocesan Annual Appeal as of December 26, 2025.

- St. Luke's Boyceville parish** \$6,210.00 (86.25%) toward the \$7,200.00 DAA target.
- Sacred Heart Elmwood parish** \$6,15.00 (39.09%) toward the \$16,155.00 DAA target.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus Spring Valley parish** \$11,251.82 (55.17%) toward the \$20,395.00 DAA target.

Please contribute to the 2025-2026 Diocesan Annual Appeal if you have not done so, by using your pledge card, (extra pledge cards may be found in the churches), or donate on-line at <https://diolc.org/stewardship/>

EPIPHANY



Sunday January 11, 2026	
Elmwood 8:30 a.m.	Spring Valley 10:30 a.m.
LECTORS	
Joel	7th Grade youth
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	
Barb	(S) Connie/Eric/Greg/Rosalie
ALTAR SERVERS	
Logan/Hannah	Weston/Porter/Emmet
USHERS/HOSPITALITY	
Jim/Dennis/Jeff/Glenn	Greg/Tony
ROSARY	MUSIC
Mary Ann	Sacred Heart choir

BECOME INVOLVED: MEMBERSHIP & 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, 715-778-5519 for more information.

Caring for the Sick: If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound or anticipating surgery, please call or email Father Anbu 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 Anbu 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 contact Father Anbu at franbu80@gmail.com or call the central office -778-5519



Contacts to Remember for the Prayer Line

To include a name to our prayer list please contact:
 Spring Valley: Laura Buchal at ssf@wwt.net or call 715-772-4452 or 612-562-5872
 Lucy Nellessen at lucynell@hotmail.com or 715-778-5937
 Cindy Schlegel at 715-338-1192
 Elmwood- Anna Crownhart 715-639-4311
 Boyceville- Judy Humpal stlukeboyceville@gmail.com or 715-643-3081