

SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



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



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CENTRAL OFFICE

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Beth Ingli

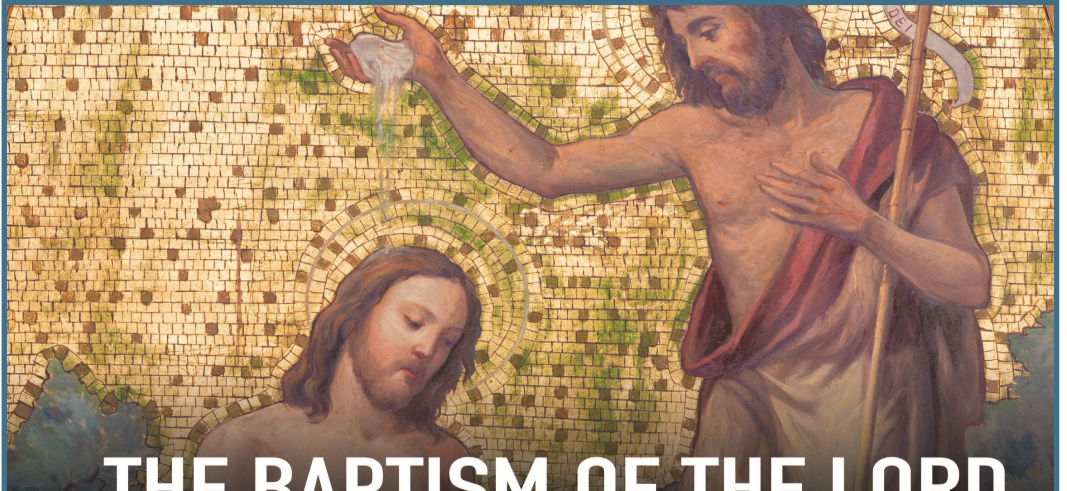
admin@shsv.diolcparish.org

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 11, 2026



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"Behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him." Mt 3:16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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

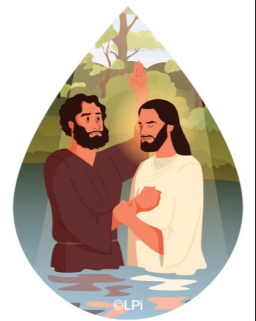
The Baptism of Jesus

Good morning, everyone! Before I get into the heart of today's Gospel, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for your blessed Christmas cards and wishes and I prayed for everyone in a special way so that the Lord Jesus and our blessed mother be with you and bless you with good health and prosperity and today I want to share something lighthearted I heard many years ago. It goes like this: In recent years we've heard people talk about being born again or having found Jesus. Well, there was a minister baptizing in a river. A man stumbled into the gathering and the minister invited him into the water. The minister asked if he found Jesus. "NO" was the answer, so the minister submerged him into the river. When the response was the same for the second time, the minister submerged him again and asked if he had found Jesus. "NO" was the answer, and the third time he was submerged a little longer. For the third time the minister asked him once again if he found Jesus. The man looked at him and said, "Are you sure this is where he went in?" Where are we looking for Jesus? Two weeks ago, we were rejoicing at the birth of Jesus who came to earth as a human baby. Now as the Christmas decorations are once again being put into storage and the Christmas season comes to an end, we are asked to reflect on Jesus as a man, 30 years later, we presume.

The baptism of Jesus is a wonderful feast. At first glance, the scene makes little sense. A wide diversity of people flocked to John in the waters of the River Jordan. People come to confess, to pledge to repent and turn away from their lives of sin. John the Baptist dunks them in the river so that they might be forgiven, washing off all the mud and muck of human brokenness. Suddenly, out of the crowd steps John's cousin, Jesus. Wait a minute! What's Jesus, the sinless one, doing in a crowd of repenting sinners? What's he doing coming forward to be baptized by John? Jesus does not enter the water to be sanctified, but instead to sanctify. He empowers the water to become no longer just an outward sign but a vehicle of the Holy Spirit bringing inner cleansing, rebirth and transformation.

Origen (c. 185-254) one of the early Church's theologians, philosophers and scholars, wrote about Jesus' baptism that "by this act. Jesus showed himself to be meek and lowly in heart, and doing all that followed in order to humble himself and become obedient until death." Jesus' baptism is a great act of humility. He wasn't baptized for his own sake, but to bring God's saving love and presence to us.

I was just 6 days old, a mere infant when I was baptized, as I'm sure most of us were and have no recollection of the event; therefore, it did not make an impression. That is why at baptism we needed godparents. It used to be a great honor and responsibility to be called to stand as a proxy for the infant being baptized and make the promises that were asked in order to be accepted into the Catholic Church. It was their responsibility, along with our parents, to show us how to grow up being good Christians by being kind, considerate of others, empathetic, understanding and charitable. In adulthood, baptism takes on a different meaning. We, too, can come to realize that we are also God's beloved, and that God is well pleased with us, that God comes to us. God is with us in the water, and God is for us in the world, meaning that we're not alone, and we don't have to rely only on our strength alone. At baptism, we put on Christ, and we carry the mission of Christ all our lives. We are called, in the example of Jesus to bring into the world justice, healing, liberation and peace, however and whenever possible. As members of the Catholic Church we pledge to "work for justice and act for peace because the Gospel urges us." It is through our baptism that we answer this call to serve. ~Father Anbu



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

CHURCH CALENDAR



January 15 St. Jessica Circle meeting following Mass
January 17- St. Luke's Potluck following 4:00 p.m. Mass
January 18- Spring Valley Right to Life Breakfast
January 22 - St. Luke Altar Society meeting following Mass
January 24- Spring Valley KC Euchre tournament

INFORMATION

News For All

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



You're Invited! St. Francis School Open House & Pancake Breakfast! Join St.

Francis School on Sunday, January 25 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 pm for an Open House for prospective families and students! At St. Francis School, we believe every child is a precious gift from God, deserving an education where Christ leads, faith grows, and excellence is pursued together. St. Francis School offers 3YK preschool, 4YK, and K - 5th grade. We are committed to making a Christ-centered education accessible to all families, and tuition assistance is available. Under a collaboration with Ellsworth Community School District, no tuition is assessed for 4YK. Private tours are also available by contacting Principal Mark Matzek at 715-273-4391. Learn more at www.stfrancisellsworth.org. Come experience the difference at St. Francis School — where faith, knowledge, and community come together! We can't wait to meet you!



Celebrating Growth: The 156 parishes of our diocese have been taking Mass counts for over two decades. Average Mass

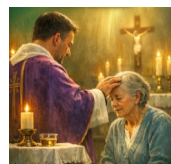
attendance in 2025 was 42,952 - an increase of 1.5% from 2024. Even with a large number of deaths, our Mass attendance has increased each year for five straight years. Praise God! See more at <https://diolc.org/rebuildmychurch/updates/>

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

Boyceville News



Congratulations to Rodrigo Marino Zimmerman, son of Jordan & Beatris Zimmerman, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism today. "Remember Lord, Rodrigo, who through Baptism, has been joined to your family. May he follow Jesus, your son, with a generous heart and willing spirit." (Roman Missal 1974)



Blessing of the sick and elderly - Each month Father Anbu will be doing a blessing of the sick, elderly or anyone that wishes to receive a blessing. This will happen each month at St. Luke's and is open to all members of our Tri-Parish community. In January this will be at the Thursday, January 15th Mass. Thereafter, it will be at the Mass on the first Thursday of the month.

Elmwood News



Our Condolences: Our deepest sympathy and assurance of prayers are extended to the family of Ric Sailer who passed away on December 31st. "O God, who alone are able to give life after death, free your servant, Ric, from all his sins, that they who believed in the Resurrection of Christ, may, when the day of resurrection comes, be united with you in glory" (Funeral Mass, Collect)

Elmwood Sacred Heart parishioners - YOU and YOUR FAMILY are invited to the Knights of Columbus Christmas Party today, 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.

Spring Valley News



The 19th Annual Sacred Heart of Jesus "Right To Life" Breakfast is NEXT Sunday, January 18th from 9am-12:30pm in the Brother Michael Center. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted! Proceeds will go to area pregnancy support agencies to help support the financial, medical, emotional, & spiritual needs of women in need of pregnancy assistance. Please join us for a great cause and share in a delicious breakfast of French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Muffins, Fresh Fruit and Beverages with wonderful community fellowship! Everyone is welcome!



The Spring Valley Knights of Columbus will be holding an Euchre tournament on Saturday, January 24th in the Brother Michael Center. Registration is from 11:30 am-12:45 pm with a fee of \$40.00 per team. Tournament begins at 1:00 pm. Lunch will start at 11:30 am (Free Will Donation)



EPIPHANY BLESSING KITS As we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany last weekend, parishioners are invited to take home an Epiphany Blessing Kit to bless their homes in the New Year. This beautiful tradition recalls the visit of the Magi and invites Christ's peace and protection into our homes. It is customary to bless your home and mark your doorway with the inscription "20 + C + M + B + 26," representing the traditional blessing "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" (May Christ bless this home), as well as the names of the Magi. Each kit includes blessed chalk, holy water, prayers, and simple instructions for marking your doorway.



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

- January 13 Tuesday Mass in Elmwood**
7:00 p.m. +Andrew & Elaine Fesenmaier
(Greg Fesenmaier)
- January 14 Wednesday Mass in Spring Valley**
6:15 p.m. +Edward Kreidermacher
(Greg & Laura Buchal)
- January 15 Thursday Mass in Boyceville**
10:00 a.m. ~For those undergoing radiation and chemotherapy (Tom & Judy Humpal)
- January 16 Friday Mass at the SVHCC**
10:00 a.m. +Marlene Ellingboe (PCCW)
- January 17 Saturday vigil Mass in Boyceville**
4:00 p.m.~For the strengthening of our Catholic faith (St. Luke Altar Society)
- January 18 Sunday Mass**
8:30 a.m. in Elmwood +Allan Strese
(Joe & Laurie Schmitt)
10:30 a.m. in Spring Valley ~Roger, Randy & Robert Priebe (Gabby & Isaac Nilssen)

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.

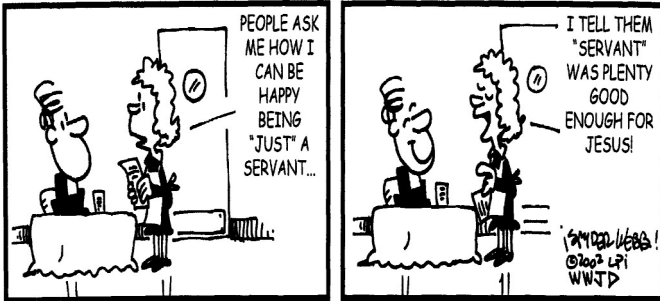
Celebrating Marriage: We eagerly welcome couples seeking to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. Contact Father Anbu to talk about scheduling your wedding and to learn more about marriage preparation.

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

 **Rite of Reconciliation** **CONFESSIONS:** Any-time by appointment


- ◆ Boyceville– Saturday's 3:15-3:45 p.m.
- ◆ Elmwood– Sunday's from 8:00 - 8:20 a.m.
- ◆ Spring Valley– Wednesday's from 5:30 – 6:10 p.m.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD




 **LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**


Sunday January 18, 2026	
Elmwood 8:30 a.m.	Spring Valley 10:30 a.m.
LECTORS	
Sacred Heart Youth	Peggy/Ruth
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	
Stephanie/Anna	(S) Anne/Katie/Karrie/Darlene
ALTAR SERVERS	
Sacred Heart Youth	Oliver/Landon/Lukas
USHERS/HOSPITALITY	
Sacred Heart Youth	Matt/Chuck
ROSARY	MUSIC
Sacred Heart Youth	Sacred Heart choir

 **COLLECTION ADULT ENVELOPES AND OFFERTORY December 24-25, 2025**

	Adult	Offertory	On-Line
Boyceville	\$ 492.00		
Elmwood	\$ 420.00	\$ 293.00	
Spring Valley	\$ 2365.00	\$ 468.25	

 **COLLECTION ADULT ENVELOPES AND OFFERTORY December 27-28, 2025**

	Adult	Offertory	On-Line
Boyceville	\$ 890.00	\$ 72.00	
Elmwood	\$ 4435.00	\$ 212.25	
Spring Valley	\$ 1007.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 909.00

 **COLLECTION ADULT ENVELOPES AND OFFERTORY January 3-4, 2025**

	Adult	Offertory	On-Line
Boyceville	\$ 645.00	\$ 190.00	
Elmwood	\$ 2025.00	\$ 151.00	
Spring Valley	\$ 2035.00	\$ 178.61	\$ 2478.50