

SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



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



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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 DECEMBER 28, 2025



THE HOLY FAMILY

"Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." - Mt 2:20

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

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

SAINT STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR

Many people have given their lives to defend the Catholic faith, but do you know the story of the first?

Saint Stephen is a prominent figure in the Book of Acts, where you can read his inspiring story. Stephen did everything in his power to live like Jesus—preaching, spreading the faith, and performing amazing signs and wonders. Eventually his witness of faith got him into trouble. He was arrested and stoned for blasphemy. As the men surrounded him with stones, Stephen cried out in imitation of Jesus on the Cross: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (Acts 7:59). And before he died, he made sure to forgive his murderers, just as Jesus did, saying, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (Acts 7:60). Stephen didn’t just live like Jesus—he died like Jesus too. It is fitting that he is recognized as the first martyr in Catholic tradition.

As Catholics, we are all called to imitate Jesus in our own ways. The ways we imitate Jesus can be big or small, public or private, universal or deeply personal. Imitating Jesus is a life-long and life-changing endeavor.

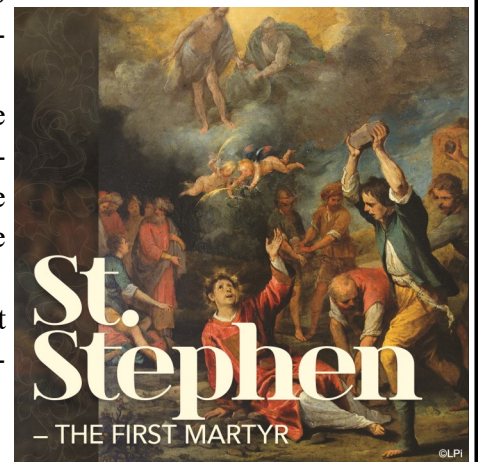
You cannot become more like Jesus and at the same time stay as you are. To be Catholic means to be striving to live the Gospel, to be striving to become more like Jesus. It is this dynamic approach to transformation that animates the human person—physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually and allows us to experience life “to the fullest.” (John 10:10) God constantly calls us to new life. He continually invites us to higher and deeper places. He continually invites us to imitate Jesus in new and exciting ways.

But it is impossible to imitate someone you do not know. We come to know Jesus in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, and through so many different people and places.

You can learn to imitate Jesus by stepping into the classroom of silence every day for ten minutes. You can learn to imitate him by praying the Rosary. You can read five pages a day from a great spiritual book. You can give generously. You can study the lives of the saints. You can give food to the hungry. You can serve the poor. You can love your family. You can forgive.

Saint Stephen learned to imitate Jesus in ways big and small, one moment at a time, even to the moment of his death. How is Jesus inviting you to imitate him today?

~Father Anbu

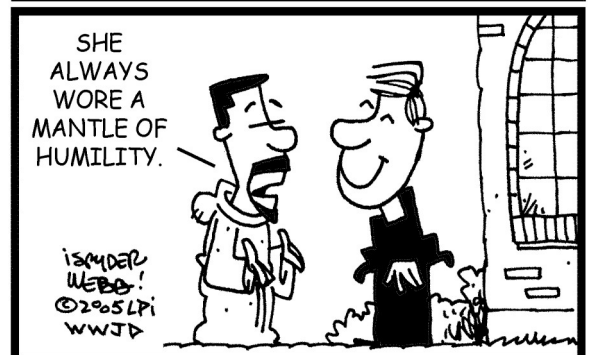
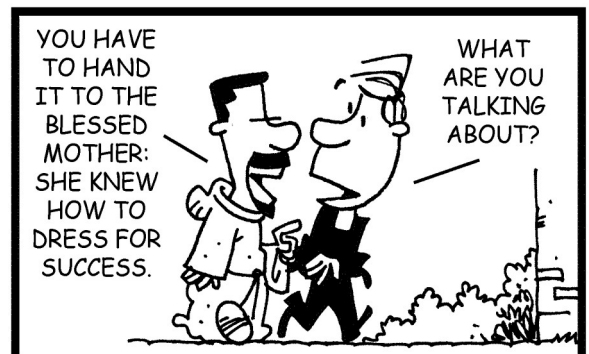


Confessing Sins

Question: If I go to the Sacrament of Penance and end up repeating the same sins, does that mean I do not have a strong enough intention to amend my life?

Answer: There is a popular expression that says, “Be patient. God isn’t finished with me yet!” Growing in faith and holiness is an ongoing, life-long project, and our struggle with sin is at the heart of it. As St. Paul says, the good he intends to do, he does not do. The evil he does not intend, he does! It is not always a lack of intention, but more often the allure of evil that makes it difficult to change. When we confess our sins, we are to come with a fully contrite heart. You need to reflect on your true feelings toward your actions before approaching the sacrament. After confession, there are strategies you can make to avoid falling into the same traps of sin. First, pray for and seek out strength and perseverance through multiple sacraments, charitable work, and personal sacrifice. Second, avoid occasions of sin when you might fail or be sorely tempted. In doing these things, remind yourself daily that it is a spiritual war we wage, and with God’s grace, we will succeed.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



INFORMATION

News For All



First Fridays & First Saturdays Devotions

Please join us for First Friday and First Saturday devotions, January 2nd and 3rd in Spring Valley. First Friday will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m. followed by adoration, prayers, confession and benediction. First Saturday will begin at 8:30 a.m. with adoration and prayers and followed by benediction and Mass. Confession will be available for those who are interested .

Elmwood will hold First Friday Devotions on January 2nd with Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by adoration, prayers, confession and benediction.



Epiphany Blessing, Explained: The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's

home. All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk. The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."

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



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/>

Boyceville News

Thank you to those that were able to stay to help decorate the church for Christmas. Your help was greatly appreciated.

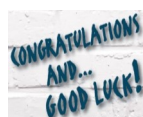
Food Pantry - in this season of giving, please consider donating food or personal hygiene products that go to help families in the area. The collection bin is in the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

Elmwood News



Save the Date!

Elmwood Sacred Heart parishioners - YOU and YOUR FAMILY are invited to the Knights of Columbus Christmas Party on 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!



Congratulations to Trevor Asher and the UW-River Falls Falcon Football Team who advance to the NCAA D-III Championship. The Falcons will face North Central at the Stagg Bowl National Championship game on January 4th, in Canton, OH. We wish them the best of luck!!

Spring Valley News

There will be no Adoration in Spring Valley on January 1 and 2, 2026.

The 2026 offertory envelopes are available to be picked up in the back of church. Thank you to those families for letting us know you wanted to continue receiving these. For those that do not have a box on the table, please contact the central office and let Beth know you would like a box for 2026.



You are invited to come for fellowship and delicious donuts and coffee next Sunday, January 4th, after Mass in the Br. Michael Center!

Families with kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come to church from 9am-10am on January 4th to run through the Christmas Nativity Pageant. One parent per family will need to stay. After practice we will have a quick snack in the church house, and then we will perform at 10:25 a.m. for the parish. Please contact Aarynn Bosshart with any questions.



The Sunday Children's Liturgy will be offered the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting in January. 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. We strive to help the children understand the gospel more fully so they can go out and live their lives as Jesus teaches.



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

December 30 Tuesday Mass in Elmwood
7:00 p.m. +Martha Geenen (Joe & Laurie Schmitt)

December 31 Wednesday Mass in Spring Valley
6:15 p.m. +Jenny Lickness (PCCW)

January 1, 2026 Thursday Mass in Boyceville
10:00 a.m. *Missa Pro Populo*

January 2 First Friday Mass
8:30 a.m. in Spring Valley +Al Keith
(Greg & Laura Buchal)

11:00 a.m. in Elmwood +Robert, Betty & Robert Jr.
Hartung (Bob & Mary Milliren)

January 3 First Saturday Mass
8:30 a.m. in Spring Valley +Jenny Lickness
(Craig & Beth Ingli)


January 3 Saturday vigil Mass in Boyceville
4:00 p.m. +Barb Hellmann (Joe Hellmann)

January 4 Sunday Mass
8:30 a.m. in Elmwood +Clarence Pittman
(John & Barb Schneider)

10:30 a.m. in Spring Valley +Darlene Raleigh
(Rich & Diane O'Connell)

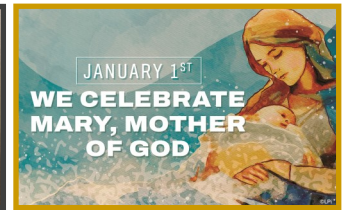


Sunday January 4, 2026	Sunday January 4, 2026
Elmwood 8:30 a.m.	Spring Valley 10:30 a.m.
LECTORS	
Sara	Gregg/Jason
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	
Pat	(S) Jason/Mary/Tara/Denise/Diane
SERVERS	
Taylor/Zander	Toby/Milo/Eli
USHERS/HOSPITALITY	
John/Jason/Josh/Jarrold	Josh/Rich
ROSARY	MUSIC
Barb	Joyful Noise



**COLLECTION ADULT ENVELOPES
AND OFFERTORY December 20-21, 2025**

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>On-Line</u>
Boyceville	\$ 5008.56	\$ 220.00	
Elmwood	\$ 6000.00	\$ 207.25	
Spring Valley	\$ 5290.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 1677.80



Please join us for New Year's Day Mass at St. Luke's parish in Boyceville at 10:00 a.m. As we celebrate Mary, Mother of God and new year filled with gratitude, hope, peace good health and new beginnings



The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development released this statement offering details about Pope Leo XIV's chosen theme for the 2026 World Day of Peace. "Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace" is the theme for the annual celebration dedicated to universal peace, held on January 1, the liturgical Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The theme, noted the press release, "invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice." "This peace must be unarmed, that is, not based on fear, threats or weapons," noted the press release. "And it must be disarming, capable of resolving conflicts, opening hearts and generating mutual trust, empathy and hope." "It is not enough to call for peace," it said. "We must embody it in a way of life that rejects every form of violence, whether it be visible or systemic." "The greeting of the Risen Christ, 'Peace be with you' (Jn 20:19), is an invitation addressed to everyone—believers, non-believers, political leaders and citizens—to build the Kingdom of God and to work together to build a humane and peaceful future," concluded the statement.

Change of Mass times	Boyceville	Elmwood	Spring Valley
January 2026	Saturday 4:00 p.m.	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.