



ST JAMES ST MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISHES

453 S. Main St. P.O. Box 280
Amherst, WI 54406
(715) 824-3455

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30AM—1:00PM

Parish Website: sjsmmc.com



Fr. Jerzy Rebacz; Pastor | Deacon Art Schaller

January 25, 2026

Mission Statement

We, the stewards of St. James and St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parishes in the Diocese of La Crosse, strive to live as disciples of Christ.



Vision Statement

As Parishioners of St. James and St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parishes, we are called as stewards to celebrate the presence of Christ in our life as we worship together in prayer, in liturgy and in the Sacraments.

We endeavor to strengthen our Catholic faith and Christian service as individuals, as families, and as a parish community as we seek to spread the teachings of Christ through our words, through our witness, and through our actions.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, January 27th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Gary Kadow Family; Living & Deceased Family Members

Wednesday, January 28th 8:15AM @ SJ
+John & Helen Finley

Thursday, January 29th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Paul Groshek

Friday, January 30th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Loecher Family; Living & Deceased Family Members

Saturday, January 31st 4:00PM @ SJ
+Dale & Paula Shulfer

Sunday, February 1st
8:30 AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes
10:30AM @ SJ Gregory Stanke

THE UNITY PRAYER

My Adorable Jesus,
 May our feet journey together.
 May our hands gather in unity.
 May our hearts beat in unison.
 May our souls be in harmony.
 May our thoughts be as one.
 May our ears listen to
 the silence together.
 May our glances profoundly
 penetrate each other.
 May our lips pray together to
 gain mercy from the Eternal Father.
 Amen.

Exposition and Benediction Schedule

The First Thursday and the First Friday of every month following the morning Mass at St. James.

Confession Schedule

After weekday Masses and Saturday at 3:30 PM at St. James.
Sunday after 10:30 AM Mass at St. James.

Did you Know?

From Our Sacred Worship Committee



The Divine Office, or Liturgy of the Hours, are prayers sung and spoken five times during the day. It is the public and common prayer of the entire Church, uniting us with Christ in praising God throughout the day.

The prayers draw from the psalms and scripture, providing for a way to transform our daily life into a continuous act of worship.

Historically, the Apostles followed this Jewish custom of fixed hour prayer which evolved to include psalms, Old Testament readings, Gospels, Epistles (letters), and canticles. Today, bishops, priests, deacons and other religious people are bound to pray it daily while laity (the rest of us) are strongly encouraged to pray, especially Morning and Evening Prayer.

Each hour of the prayer follows a particular structure: Opening hymn, Psalmody (psalms and canticles), Reading from Scripture, Prayers (including intercessions and concluding prayer).

The Divine Office sanctifies time, marking the rhythm of listening to God's word and praying the Psalms, so every activity refers back to divine praise of our God. Singing the psalms and prayers is encouraged, as well as praying in community.

Though religious people are trained on using books for these prayers, in our modern days, "there's an app for that". The free app I'm currently using when I say these prayers is DivineOffice.org.



And, wouldn't you know, there are daily YouTube videos that one can pray along with! Another wonderful manner of prayer that Catholics may participate in!



*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
I love you very much.*

I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.



St James

Week Ending January 18, 2026

Received \$1,979
Budget \$3,462
(\$1,483)

	Month of Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2024
Received	\$17,578	\$95,314	\$79,577
Budget	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$90,000</u>	
	\$2,578	\$5,314	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (1/22/26)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$18,425 (67%)
Families who have Contributed: 42

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending January 18, 2026

Received \$9,170
Budget \$3,923
\$5,247

	Month of Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2024
Received	\$31,912	\$99,694	\$107,942
Budget	<u>\$17,000</u>	<u>\$102,000</u>	
	\$14,912	(\$2,306)	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (1/22/26)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$17,810 (51%)
Families who have Contributed: 52

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Our next gift card sales will be on February 1st at the 10:30am Mass, on February 14th at the 4:00pm Mass and again on February 15th at the 10:30am Mass. You can order gift cards at any time by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

Thanks for your support!

St. James Scrip Update

Our next gift card sales will be on January 31st and February 1st...and then again on February 14th and 15th.

Contact Hydie Laidlaw at (715) 347-3544 or stop by the parish office to purchase cards during the week.

Money earned from our scrip sales is used to reduce our monthly Pacelli Catholic Schools assessment for each parish.



Blessing of Throats. The Catholic Church celebrates St. Blaise on February 3rd. St. Blaise is venerated as the patron saint of throat ailments. Fr. Jerzy will be blessing throats next weekend, January 31st and February 1st, during the weekend Masses.

St. Mary Restoration. This weekend we had a short video playing in the gathering space before and after all the Masses showing the damage in the arch of St. Mary sanctuary. This week all active registered St. Mary families will be receiving a letter from Fr. Jerzy and the Restoration Committee giving more details of the damage and the project. Please take time to read the letter. ~*Thank you!*

It's Live! We launched an updated website for our parishes this past week. Take a moment to explore it. Please note we're still in the process of updating information related to the 'Sacraments' and 'Faith Formation'...but those pages will be uploaded very soon as well as other information! It will take some time for the search engines like Google, Bing, etc. to bring our site to the top of their search rankings....so for now, to find our site, enter our new address directly into your search engine: www.sjsmmc.com Consider bookmarking the page for quick access in the future. As more people access our site, the higher we'll move on the ranking and the easier it will be for us to be found. Suggestions? Please contact the parish office.



The Great Adventure Bible Study. On Monday, January 26th Jeff Cavins will be guiding us through the Book of Matthew, Chapter 1, giving us insight into "**Jesus: the Son of David, the Son of Abraham**". Jeff Cavins does an incredible job helping us to understand the importance of Jesus' genealogy. Join us for this informative lesson. We will meet on January 26th at St. James at 5:30pm. All are welcome!



Check it Out and Stay awhile! A coffee & tea station has been installed in the gathering space. Stop by to check it out!

This is for everyone to use. Brew a cup or two and stay awhile to talk with family, friends, or someone new! All of the supplies and instructions can be found at the station. Parents... on Wednesday evenings, please come inside for conversation and a beverage while your child is in class. This was installed with you in mind! Take some time to get to know other parents in the community!



Faith Step

Just Keep Showing Up



The spiritual life is made up of many seasons.

You'll experience seasons when you can't wait to get to prayer and periods when you have to force yourself to keep showing up. You'll have days when you feel the warmth of God's love fill your whole being and days when it seems he couldn't be further away.

There is one motto you can adopt that will see you through all these seasons: "JUST KEEP SHOWING UP".

Our prayer life is subject to many invasions, whether they be our own thoughts, other people's demands on our time, or long periods of feeling distant from God. Just show up when things get hard, don't rush away from prayer. Lean into it even more. If you want God to do extraordinary things in and through you, persevere in prayer.

**"Persevere in prayer,
being watchful in it with thanksgiving".**

~Colossians 4:2

**"I waited, waited for the Lord;
he stooped toward me and heard my cry."**

~Psalm 40:2

Mark your calendars to join us for our

BBQ & Bingo!

This is a family activity for children and adults.

**Sundays: February 15th
March 8th**

Immediately following the 10:30am Mass in the St. James gathering space.

There will be a **FREE** light lunch followed by **FREE** bingo! We will have a 50/50 raffle as well as basket raffles! Everything concludes by 1:00pm. Hope to see you there!

~The SMMC Bingo Committee

All are welcome!



The Word Among Us. If you ordered a subscription to 'the WORD among us', the next issue is available at the gathering space entryway.

St. Adalbert Catholic School Glow Bingo! Friday, January 30th. Doors open at 5:00pm. Bingo starts at 6:00pm. Over \$1,000 in Cash Prizes. Card packs start at just \$20. 20 Games.

St. Wenceslaus (Milladore) Pizza and Calzone Sales. January 31st from 2-4pm. Featuring our special PIZZA crust with options of: Cheese (\$8), Meat Pizza's \$10: Pepperoni & Bacon, Sausage, Meat Lover, Breakfast, and Chicken Bacon Ranch. Calzones (\$4): Chicken Garlic Ranch, Sausage, Pepperoni, and Breakfast. Fresh Homemade Pretzels with Cheese Sauce \$1.50!

Ponczka Dance, February 7th. St. Michael, Junction City. Join us 6pm to 10m with a \$5 cover at the door ages 12 & under are free. Featuring the Ultimate Polka Band with alternating DJ throughout the evening. Ponczka's on sale to eat in or take with.

St. Joseph Parish will hold their Winterfest Fish Fry and Raffle event on Friday, February 13th. 4:30-6:30pm Dine-in or carry out. Phone pre-orders accepted day of: (715) 341-1617.

Feb. 14 - St. Wenceslaus PCCW Drive Thru Soup Sale from 2 to 4pm. Soups are \$8 a quart with dinner rolls. Soups include Chicken with Homemade Noodles, Ham & Vegetable, Italian Sausage with Vegetables and Taco Soup. It will warm you on a cold day!

Women's Book Club at Sacred Heart in Polonia. We meet every 1st and 3rd Monday evening at 7:15 in the Sacred Heart Church basement. We are beginning a new book, *Theology for Beginners* by Frank Sheed. Come even if you can't get the book before the meeting. Call or text Kim Andrich with any questions: (715) 570-5923.



Marriage

Couples requesting the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage should contact the office at the time of engagement, at least six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage. If a couple wishes to be married as a registered parish member, they must actively participate in the faith (Sunday worship) and be a registered member of our parish at least 3 months prior to requesting the Sacrament of Marriage. Weddings are not celebrated during Lent.

Baptism

Parents may request the baptism of their infant at least two months prior to the anticipated date of baptism. Family should be members of our parish, they must actively participate in the faith (Sunday worship) and be a registered member of our parish. To request baptism, please call the parish office at (715) 824-3455.

Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one is in need of the Anointing Sacrament especially before a hospital stay or procedure - please contact the office.

United Prayers to Heaven Prayer Chain

If you, or anyone you know, is in need of prayers, please let us know. We will keep your name & prayer request confidential. Names are included only if you so desire.

Contacts for Prayer Chain
 Laurie.....phintz5@gmail.com
 Darlene.....(715) 592-4443
 Barb.....(715) 824-3649

Parish Staff

Office

Veronica Bruske(715) 824-3455
catholiccentral54406@gmail.com

Please send your ambo announcements into the office via email by 4:30pm Tuesday.

Parish Life Administrator

Ann Hemmy.....sjsmparishlife@gmail.com

DRE

Michelle Shulfer.....sjsmdre@gmail.com

Bulletin.....bulletininfo06@gmail.com

Please send your bulletin requests via email by 4:30pm Tuesday.

Church Councils

Pastoral Council

Cindi Borski SM
 Justen Pacocha SM
 Barb Gutschow SM
 Judy Zinda SM
 Michael Juris SJ
 Michelle Shulfer SJ
 Christine Thompson SJ

Finance Council

Mark Doll SM
 Gilbert Patoka SM
 Sandy Trzebiatowski SJ
 Pat Kwiatkowski SJ

Committees Chairperson and Co-chairs

Family Life....Laura Gould
Sacred Worship....Judi Marquard | Barb Groholski
Social Concerns... Pat Zielinski | Laura Trzebiatowski-Przekurat