



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

February 22, 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, February 24th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Chuck Schmollinger

Wednesday, February 25th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Bert & Millie Glodowski

Thursday, February 26th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Felix & Maymie Zielinski

Friday, February 27th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Nancy Schmidt

Saturday, February 28th 4:00PM @ SJ
+Scot Martin

Sunday, March 1st
8:30 AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes
10:30AM @ SJ +Gary Kadow

Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Father God,
I don't want this Lent to pass by as just another season.
I want to be changed.
Strip away anything in me that keeps me from fully surrendering to You.
Fill me with Your Spirit and renew my mind so that I may grow in Faith, Love, and Obedience.
Make me more like Jesus, day by day.
Amen



Lenten Stations of the Cross Schedule

Tuesday mornings following the 8:15AM Mass (SJ)
Friday afternoons at 2:00PM (SJ)

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.

*Kindly leave a note in the sacristy if you need Father to hear your confession after Mass-no names needed.

St Mary Restoration Update

We are happy to report that in two weeks the ceiling, upper walls and the decorative work on the ribs and arch should be completed. The huge scaffolding will then be removed and the remaining lower areas will be able to be done with moveable scaffolding. We are still hoping to be on schedule for the dedication Mass with Bishop Battersby on May 10th. We should know more in the next week or two.

Another issue with the lower walls must be addressed before painting can be done on the lower walls. For several years plaster dust has been present on the carpet along the walls. It has been discovered that the deterioration of the plaster behind the surface layer of the wall due to age/moisture has caused it to crumble to a powder/dust. To resolve this the drywall/sheet rock, which is the surface layer, will be remove 4 feet up from the base around the entire church. This will be replaced with new drywall and then the finishing work will be done.



Thank you to all who have generously responded to the recent letter sent to all St. Mary parishioners. For those who have given for the first time – THANK YOU!!!! For all who have given an additional donation – THANK YOU!!!! For all who continue to make payments on their pledge – THANK YOU!!!!

Your donations are helping to ensure that St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church, with all its beautiful history, will be here for years to come for our future generations to be able celebrate and receive the Sacraments.

St. James Restoration is scheduled to begin in January 2027. The restoration committee will be having a meeting on March 3rd . If you have some ideas that you would like to share with Fr. Jerzy or the committee, please contact Fr. Jerzy or one of St James Restoration Committee members listed below **prior to February 27th** . :

- Deacon Art | Jill Benjamin |Mike Juris |Pat Kwiatkowski |
- Judi Marquard | Peggy Rzentkowski | Bob Schilling |
- Michelle Shulfer | Sharon Stratton | Christine Thompson |
- Sandy Trzebiatowski

St James

Week Ending February 15, 2026



Received \$1,647
Budget \$3,462
(\$1,815)

	Month of Jan 2025	Fiscal YTD Jan 2025	Fiscal YTD Jan 2024
Received	\$13,802	\$108,968	\$94,406
Budget	<u>\$15,000</u> (\$1,198)	<u>\$105,000</u> \$3,968	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (2/17/2026)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$23,295 (85%)
Families who have Contributed: 46

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending February 15, 2026

Received \$3,393
Budget \$3,923
(\$530)

	Month of Jan 2025	Fiscal YTD Jan 2025	Fiscal YTD Jan 2024
Received	\$19,557	\$118,891	\$123,525
Budget	<u>\$17,000</u> \$2,557	<u>\$119,000</u> (\$109)	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (2/17/2026)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$24,514 (70%)
Families who have Contributed: 60

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Our next sales will be on March 1st at the 10:30am Mass—and then again on March 21st at the 4:00pm Mass and March 22nd at the 10:30am Mass. You can also purchase cards at anytime by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

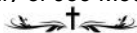
St. James Scrip Update

Scrip cards will be sold next weekend, February 28th at the 4:00pm Mass and March 1st at the 8:30am Mass—and then again on March 14th and 15th at the 4:00pm and 8:30am Masses. 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.
Thank you for your support!

With our sincere gratitude... The family of Joseph “Joe” Modrzewski would like to thank Father Jerzy and Deacon Art for officiating at Joe’s funeral Mass. We also thank Barb Groholski and Brenda Warner for the readings, Linda Konkol and Janet Glodowski for the amazing voices they shared with us, Barb and Mary Groholski for the gift offering, and Kathy Somers and everyone who helped her prepare and serve the amazing meal. Thank you to everyone and may God bless you all!

~The family of Joe Modrzewski



WINNERS!

Last weekend’s winners from the Annual Appeal Polish Dinner Drawing are:

Don & Murt Spierings (SJ)
Marv & Kathy Somers (SM)

Congratulations!

...and it’s not too late! We will continue to draw (2) lucky winners each weekend through March 22nd.



The Great Adventure Bible Study. On Monday, February 23rd, Jeff Cavins will be guiding us through Session 6 of the Book of Matthew, Chapter 5, giving us insight into **“The Bar is Raised by the King”**. Jeff Cavins will help us to understand how the Beatitudes reflect perfectly the image of Christ, how they flow into each other and they build upon each other. We were created for the Beatific Vision – to see God – to live with Him forever. We need God to get there. We must empty ourselves of pride and allow Christ to rule and reign in our life. Join us for this informative lesson. We will meet on February 23rd at St. James at 5:30pm. All are welcome!

It’s coffee and donut time! Join us next Sunday, March 1st after the 8:30am Mass for our monthly coffee and donut social!



BBQ & Bingo! Mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, March 8th immediately following the 10:30am Mass!



Our 2026 Lenten Journey

Stations of the Cross. If you are able, please join us on Tuesday morning following the 8:15am Mass or on Friday at 2:00pm for Stations of the Cross.



Lenten material, including the little Black Book, is available at the entryways to help us grow closer to Our Lord and to help prepare our heart and soul for Holy Week.

What should I do with my palms from Palm Sunday?

Blessed palms are sacramentals that should be treated with reverence and never discarded in the trash. The proper methods for disposal are burning them and burying the ashes, or simply burying the palms. We will also gladly accept your old palms here at St James and will properly dispose of them for you. Feel free to leave your palms in the “Blessed Palms” baskets located at the church entryways.



Reconciliation. In addition to the weekly confession schedule, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St James on Thursday, March 12th beginning at 6:00pm.

Confession is our time to simply and humbly lay our sins before God and receive the healing He wants to give us. Please consider making it a priority to make it to Confession this Lenten Season!

Please mark your calendars for the following Lenten Retreats:

⇒ St. Joseph’s Parish in Stevens Point will have a three-day Mission, Feb. 22nd, 23rd, & 24th, beginning at 6:30pm each evening. Deacon Arthur Miller, a nationally known preacher of God’s Holy Scripture, will be their Mission Speaker. He will speak on Radical Love, the kind of self-denying love that can only be accomplished through the grace and power offered to us through Jesus Christ.

⇒ St. Wenceslaus in Milladore will have a Lenten/Centennial Retreat on Saturday, March 21st starting at 2 pm with Fr. Damian Joseph Redfern, followed by a light lunch at 3pm and Fr. Sam Martin from 4pm – 4:45. Confessions will be held from 5pm – 5:50pm, followed at 6pm with a Mass.

Faith Steps

Return to the Lord, your God. (Joel 2:13)

Happy Lent! We might not think of Lent as a “happy” time, but that’s the way God thinks about this season. He looks forward to it! To him, Lent is an exciting time, a hopeful time, a time for his children to come home to him. Our Father longs for each of us to grow closer to him and experience his love. This is the “why” behind all our Lenten practices of fasting and repentance, of giving alms and setting aside extra time for prayer. We make these efforts not merely as an obligation or an attempt to detach from the world but as a response to God’s loving call. They help us to return to him and reconnect with the One who has loved us from the beginning. With each prayer, each sacrifice, and each act of mercy, we take one step closer to our Father. We can seize the opportunity that Lent offers us and take a step closer to the Lord. Or we can pull back and ignore God’s generous invitation. What will you do? Will you miss out on all that God has in store for you. Or, return to God with all your heart this Lent!

Did you know? From our Sacred Worship Committee

As we prayed on Ash Wednesday, consider praying the **Litany of Humility** daily as part of your Lenten journey:

Oh Jesus, meek and humble of heart...	Hear me
From the desire of being esteemed...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the desire of being honored....	Deliver me, Jesus
From the desire of being praised....	Deliver me, Jesus
From the desire of being preferred to others...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the desire of being consulted...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the desire of being approved....	Deliver me, Jesus
From the fear of being humiliated...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the fear of being despised...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the fear of suffering rebukes...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the fear of being forgotten...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the fear of being ridiculed...	Deliver me, Jesus
From the fear of being wronged...	Deliver me, Jesus
That others may be loved more than I...	Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it
That others may be esteemed more than I	Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it
That in the opinion in the world, others may increase and I may decrease....	Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it
That others may be chosen and I set aside...	Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it
That others may be preferred to me in everything...	Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it
That others may be become holier than I, provided that I become as holy as I should...	Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.	

Area Events

Called and Gifted Workshop. March 21, 2026
Come and begin to discover how Christ calls and equips you for a unique work of love only you can do. God gave you spiritual gifts in baptism and this process helps you to discern those unique charisms. When you know and use your charisms, there is more confidence, purpose and joy. A teaching team from the Catherine of Siena Institute from Colorado Springs will offer the Called & Gifted workshop on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield. Every adult 20 yrs or older is invited to attend. The gifts discernment process explores 23 charisms identified in the writings of St. Paul and St. Thomas. Click [here](#) for further information and to register or go to: diolc.org/catechesis/called-and-gifted-workshop/

Join us for Lenten Soup Suppers at St. Ladislaus Parish, Bevent, on Wednesdays February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25. We will be serving Soup, Sandwiches, Salads, and Desserts from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in the church basement. Free Will donation. Weekly Door Prize Drawing. Open to the public

St Adalbert Parish, Rosholt - Fish Fry Serving 4pm to 7:30pm on Fridays Feb 27, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20 and Mar 27. Menu is Fried or Baked Fish, Fried Shrimp or Combo. All meals include a choice of potato, coleslaw, bread, dessert and coffee or milk. Dine in or take out available.

St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish annual Ham Dinner; Sunday, March 15, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Location: 8611 State Highway 54, Almond WI. Dine-In or Carry-out. Adults-\$14; Children 6 to 12-\$6; Children 5 & under FREE.

Parish Staff

Office

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

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

Jill Benjamin (SJ)
Mike Juris (SJ)
Bob Schilling (SJ)
Michelle Shulfer (SJ)
Christine Thompson (SJ)

Sarah Eron (SM)
Julie Glodowski (SM)
Jenny Konkol (SM)
Justen Pacocha (SM)
Karen Piesik (SM)
Carol Rudiger (SM)
Judy Zinda (SM)

Finance Council

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

Committees Chairperson and Co-chairs

Family Life....Laura Gould

Sacred Worship....Judi Marquard | Barb Groholski

Social Concerns... Pat Zielinski | Laura Trzebiatowski-Przekurat