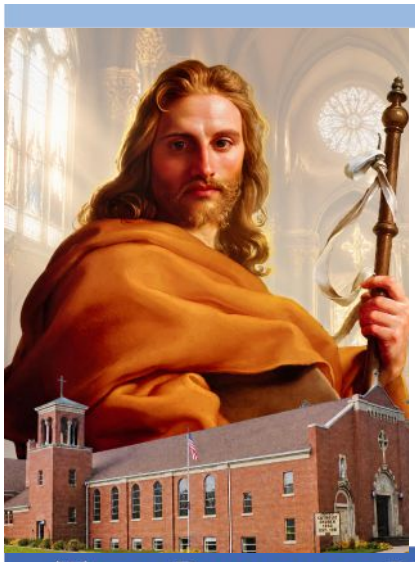


St. James
St. Mary of Mount Carmel
Catholic Parishes

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



Two Parishes United in Faith, Community, and Tradition

Welcome

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

During St. James' renovation all Masses are held at St. Mary

Tuesday, December 1st 8:15AM @ SM
+Joe & Virginia Kwiatkowski

Wednesday, December 2nd 8:15AM @ SM
+Mike Trzebiatowski

Thursday, December 3rd 8:15AM @ SM
For Spencer Cohen and all the Seminarians of the Diocese of La Crosse

Friday, December 4th 8:15AM @ SM
Living & Deceased Members of the Loecher Family

Saturday, December 5th 4:00PM @ SM
+Richard Rzentkowski

Sunday, December 6th
8:30AM @ SM Parishioners of our Two Parishes
10:30AM @ SM +Jim Borski



Exposition and Benediction Schedule
The First Thursday and the First Friday of every month following the morning Mass.

Confession Schedule
After weekday Masses*
Saturday at 3:30 PM at St. Mary
Sunday after 10:30 AM Mass* at St. Mary
*Kindly leave a note in the sacristy if you need Father to hear your confession after Mass-no names needed.

Faith Step

"What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Mark 13:37

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples to

"Be watchful! Be alert!"

He reminds us that we do not know when the Lord will come, so we must always be ready.

Being watchful doesn't mean living in fear or worrying about tomorrow. It means living each day with faith, love, and purpose. It means recognizing the many opportunities God gives us to make a difference in someone's life.

Sometimes we become so busy with our daily routines that we forget to slow down and notice God's presence around us. Jesus invites us to awaken our hearts, strengthen our faith, and never take the gift of today for granted.

Let us live each day ready to welcome the Lord through our prayers, our kindness, and the love we share with others.

Take a few quiet moments each day to make room for God. Be watchful for the opportunities He places before you to show kindness, offer forgiveness, and help someone in need.

Don't wait for tomorrow to live your faith today.

Lord, Keep my Heart Awake

Dear Jesus,
Help us to stay watchful and faithful in all that we do. Open our eyes to see the blessings of each day and the needs of those around us. When life becomes busy, remind us to pause, pray, and make room for You. May we never put off an opportunity to love, forgive, or help another person. Keep our hearts ready to welcome You, today and always.

Amen.

Are you, or someone you know, homebound? If would like a weekly bulletin mailed to you, or a regular visit and/or Holy Communion from a member of our Homebound Ministry team, please contact the parish office. Also, Father Jerzy would like to visit and offer the Sacraments to his homebound parishioners this Advent Season. Please contact the parish office to have your name placed on his list for a December visit.

Stewardship *A way of living*

	St. Mary	St. James
Collection Budget for Last Week	**$ 2,970**	**$ 2,820**
- Adult Envelopes	$ 2,098	$ 1,000
- Online Giving	$ 280	$ 381
- Loose Offertory	$ 394	$ 343
- Thanksgiving Envelopes	$ 45	$ 0
Total Weekly Collection	**$ 2,817**	**$ 1,724**
Over/(Under) Budget	**$ (153)**	**$(1,096)**
Other Giving:		
- Buildings & Grounds	$ 90	$ 0
- Bingo Proceeds	$ 158	$ 0
Year to Date (As of 11/22/26)		
YTD Weekly Collection Budget	**$ 63,550**	**$ 60,180**
YTD Weekly Collections	$ 67,590	$ 59,628
Over/(Under) Budget	**$ 4,040**	**$ (552)**

MANY GIFTS, ONE MISSION

2026 - 2027 Annual Appeal		
Goal	$ 36,495	$ 28,170
$ Pledged to Date	$ 8,330	$ 11,370
% to Goal	23%	40%
# Families Participating	30	32

Just a friendly reminder -
The calendar year-end is quickly approaching! For tax purposes, please have any contributions you would like reflected on your 2026 giving statement to the parish office, or postmarked, by December 31st.

Buy Your Christmas Gift Cards Here!

SMMC Scrip Update
Our next sale dates will be on December 6th and December 20th before and after the 10:30am Mass. Give Pat Zielinski a call at (715) 824-3762 to purchase cards at any time. Gift cards make excellent Christmas gifts! **Please place your orders early to ensure delivery by Christmas.**

St. James Scrip Update
Scrip is on sale this weekend after the 4:00pm and 8:30am Masses. As we get closer to Christmas, we will be selling the weekends of December 12th and 13th and December 19th and 20th. Contact Hydie Laidlaw at (715) 347-3544 or stop by the parish office to purchase cards during the week.



This Week! Exposition and Benediction.

First Thursday, December 3rd and
First Friday, December 4th

After the 8:15am Mass at St. Mary

Holiday Baskets. We are collecting gifts for Holiday Baskets again this year. Both trees for St. James and St. Mary's are located in the St. Joseph room at St. Mary's. We will collect gifts through **Sunday Dec 13th** as we need to wrap and deliver the gifts the following weekend.

Thanks for your generous support with this ministry!

Donut Social next Sunday! Join us after the 8:30am Mass next Sunday for our monthly coffee and donut social!



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.



Every year on December 8th the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This important feast day honors Christ by honoring his mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, in particular by celebrating our belief that she was conceived free from original sin. The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary, not that of Jesus himself, though the feast is tied in an important way to the person of Jesus.

This Solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation.
Mass times on Tuesday, December 8th will be:
8:15am and 6:00pm.

Advent Material. To help us prepare our hearts of the coming of the Christ child, Advent material, Including "The Little Blue Book" for Advent and Christmas", are available at the entryways. Don't forget to take a candy cane each week during Advent to help you in your faith journey. May you have a Blessed Advent Season!



St. Andrew's Christmas Novena

A popular tradition is a Christmas novena that begins on St. Andrew's feast day. (November 30th)

It is traditionally prayed 15 times every day, though not necessarily all at once. Pray the following prayer from November 30th to December 24th.

Hail, Blessed be the hour and moment
at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin,
in the stable, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.
At that hour, vouchsafe, I beseech thee, O my God,
to hear my prayers and grant my desire
through Jesus Christ, and His most Blessed Mother.
Amen

A SPECIAL EVENT
HOSTED BY THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church
3995 Cty Rd K
Amherst (Fancher)

Sunday, December 6th

Movie Times:
After the 10:30 am Mass and again at 5:00pm

RSVP appreciated as food will be served.
Text or call Jodi:
(715) 630-6827
jodiglo63@gmail.com

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for a FREE screening and guided discussion of the film *"Cabrini"* and how Mother Cabrini's life is an example for us today!

CABRINI HAS A RUNTIME OF 2 HOURS 22 MINUTES. RATED PG-13 FOR THEMATIC MATERIAL, VIOLENCE, LANGUAGE, AND SMOKING

DONATIONS TO THE FOOD PANTRY ARE WELCOME

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Jerzy, along with (2) other priests, will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday, December 10th beginning at 6:00pm at St. Mary. Keep in mind that confession is also available every Saturday at 3:30pm, after the weekday Masses and after the 10:30am Mass on Sundays. (Kindly leave a note in the sacristy if you would like Father to hear your confession after Mass - no names please.)



Advent wreaths traditionally hold four candles (three are purple and one is pink). The candles represent Jesus coming as a light in the darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ candle."

Each of the candles lit before Christmas represent an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent.

The First Sunday of Advent:

- Candle Name: *The Prophecy Candle*
- The First Week of Advent Represents: *Hope*
- Candle Color*: Purple*

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.

Are you ready to discover the hope Jesus is inviting you to experience this Advent?

A special Thank You to the families who are participating in the lighting of the Advent wreath...a beautiful tradition in our parishes!

Area Events

UWSP Department of Music presents Winter Choir Concert. Concert Choir & University Choir featuring low brass ensemble. St. Stephen's Church. December 5th. 7:30pm

36th Annual Cookie Walk Event. St. Joseph Family Center, Stevens Point. Saturday, December 5th 9-11am or until sold out. Featuring...gift baskets, Christmas crafts, homemade cookies and chocolate. Baked in our own parish kitchen!

It's BACK! The 2026 Cookie Walk. Sat. Dec. 5 from 5-9pm and Sun. Dec 6 from 9am-noon at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish; 8611 Highway 54, Almond, WI - approx. 12 miles east of Plover. Hosted by the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Women's Council. Proceeds benefit the women's council Holiday Gift Card Program.

FREE potluck and viewing party of the documentary 'Broken Mary' Monday, Dec. 7 at 6:30pm at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish social hall, 8611 Highway 54, Almond, WI. The story of how popular upper midwest radio personality Kevin Matthews was miraculously healed and how he now endeavors to lead people to Jesus through Mary. Hosted by Knights of Columbus council 18888. Bring a dish to pass. Any & all free will offerings will go to the parish KC charity account to help out local charitable causes.

Dec. 12 - St. Wenceslaus Advent Retreat (Milladore) begins at 2pm with Fr. Steven Weller "My Soul Yearns for You: Discovering the Ache for God" with a snack at 3pm, with Fr. Kyle Laylan speaking at 4pm "This is Me: Priest, Casa Hogar, Our Lady of Guadalupe" followed by confessions (3 priests available) until Mass at 6pm. All are welcome!

St. Peter Parish Family Life Presents their 23rd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk and Holiday Silent Auction on Saturday, December 12th from 7:30 am to 10:30 am at Kolbe Hall - located in the lower level of St. Peter Church, 800 Fourth Avenue, Stevens Point.

Cookies and Candy, $10 per pound. Gloves and Containers Provided. Twenty holiday themed silent auction items available for your bidding from 7:30 am to 10 am.

St. Bronislava Holy Name Society's "All You Can Eat Breakfast" will be held Sunday, December 13, 2026 from 8:30AM to 11:30am at St. Bronislava Catholic Church located at 3200 Plover Rd in Plover. The Menu includes buttermilk & potato pancakes, French toast, breakfast sausage links & ham (Limit 4 in combo), milk, juice & coffee. Cost is $10.00 for ages 13-adult, $4 for ages 5-12 & Free for ages 4 & under. The meal is cooked by the men of Holy Name and table service is provided by St Bron's Boy Scout troop #201. Proceeds from the breakfast go towards the Parish, School & Youth Needs. Thank you for your support

Guadalupan Revival Parish Workshop with Fr. Tim Oudenhoven. Director of Marian Messengers. Friday, December 18th at 6pm. 5pm - Intro to Our Lady of Guadalupe and confessions. St. Joseph Parish Hall. RSVP at the parish or online at MarianMessengers.org

Dec. 19 - Take & Bake Chicken Pot Pie Sale (St. Wenceslaus, Milladore) selling from 2 to 4pm. 8" Chicken Pot Pies for $12 or 4 inch Chicken Pot Pies for $6 with Individual White Chocolate Pumpkin Cheesecakes for $5 while supplies last.

Calling All Crafters! You are invited to join us for a day of crafting! Saturday, January 23, 2027 from 8:00am-8:00pm. St Joseph Parish. Bring your crafting tools, laptops, and supplies. Cost is $45/person. Price includes lunch, dinner, snacks, and beverages. Registration deadline: January 13th. Must be at least 18 years of age. (715) 341-1617.

Parish Staff

Fr. Jerzy Rebacz; Pastor

Deacon Art Schaller

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)

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
Homebound Ministry
Sandy Trzebiatowski...(715) 630-6308
Julie Glodowski…….. (715) 340-0004
Jodi Glodowski …….. (715) 630-6827
Barb Groholski …… (715) 824-3649
GriefShare Ministry
Cindi ….(715) 570-0755
Shawn.. (715) 570-5082
United Prayers to Heaven Prayer Chain
Laurie……..plhintz5@gmail.com
Darlene…...(715) 592-4443
Barb…….(715) 824-3649