



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: sjsmcc.weconnect.com



Fr. Jerzy Rebacz; Pastor | Deacon Art Schaller

January 18, 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 20th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Robert & Violet Miller

Wednesday, January 21st 8:15AM @ SJ
+Herman & Bernadette Przekurat Family; Living & Deceased

Thursday, January 22nd 8:15AM @ SJ
+Carl & Barb Adamski

Friday, January 23rd 8:15AM @ SJ
+Hank Shirek

Saturday, January 24th 4:00PM @ SJ
+Brian Groholski and +Rose Yach

Sunday, January 25th
8:30 AM @ SJ +Dave Kannel
10:30AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes

PRAYER FOR LIFE

Father and maker of all,
you adorn all creation
with splendor and beauty,
and fashion human lives
in your image and likeness.

Awaken in every heart
reverence for the work of your hands,
and renew among your people
a readiness to nurture and sustain
your precious gift of life.

Grant this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.
Amen

EVERY LIFE
cherished • chosen • sent

Adoration Schedule

First Thursday of the month after morning Mass at St. James
First Thursday of the month 4:30-5:30PM; First Friday of the month after 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.



Faith Step

One BODY, One SPIRIT, One HOPE.

Every year, Christians around the world come together to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

From January 18 through January 25, they celebrate the truth that, "*What unites us is much greater than what divides us*" (Pope John II).

Can you spend time every day praying for this. As you do, know that you are joining people from all over the world, your brother and sisters in Christ, in begging God to heal our divisions and help us work together for the unity that he so deeply wants for us. Lord, make us one!

Lord Jesus Christ,
 you show us how to be patient
 with one another in humility and gentleness.
 May the light you have shined on our path
 lead us towards unity
 and help us heal the wounds
 of division and indifference
 that often break communities apart.
 Amen

**With all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bear with one another in love.**
(Ephesians 4:2)



Mass Offerings. The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition.

One of the greatest things we can do for those we love is offer the sacrifice of Mass.

There are still many remaining dates in 2026.

If you would like to schedule a Mass, please call the parish office (715) 824-3455, stop in Tuesday through Thursday, or email catholiccentral54406@gmail.com. (If emailing, please include any special date requests you might have.)

The suggested Mass offering is \$20—which gets passed along to the priest.

"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier."

~Saint Mother Teresa



St James

Week Ending January 11, 2026



Received \$2,284
 Budget \$3,462
 (\$1,178)

	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 (1/15/26)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$18,385 (67%)
Families who have Contributed: 42

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending January 11, 2026

Received \$2,539
 Budget \$3,923
 (\$1,384)

	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 (1/15/26)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$12,760 (37%)
Families who have Contributed: 51

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Our next gift card sales will be on February 1st. Cards can be purchased at any time by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

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 Hydrie 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.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Video



St. Mary Restoration. Before and after all the Masses next weekend, January 24th/25th, we will have a 2-minute video available and playing in the gathering space of the additional work needed to be done to repair the arch in and around the upper portion of the sanctuary. Take a few minutes before or after Mass and view video. Please also be sure take a bulletin next weekend for more details.



The Great Adventure Bible Study. This Monday, January 19th, Jeff Cavins will be guiding us through the Book of Matthew, giving us insight into "*Jesus: the Son of David, the Son of Abraham*". Join us for this informative lesson. We will meet at St. James at 5:30pm. All are welcome!

Epiphany Home Blessing. Packets with blessed chalk and the Home Blessing Prayer are still available by the entryways.

20 + C + M + B + 26

I'm Still Lost! Check out the 'Lost and Found' basket located at the gathering space entryway. There are several items that have been left behind.

Contribution Statements. Your 2025 Annual Contribution Statements for your parish contributions have been mailed. If you do not receive your statement by January 31st, please contact the parish office.

~Thank you!

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!

Did you Know?

From Our Sacred Worship Committee

During this liturgical year, the Gospel readings feature those of Matthew.

We know that Matthew was one of Jesus' chosen 12 apostles. He was also called Levi and was a tax collector. In those days, tax collectors were disliked and shunned from the Jewish community. The money they collected, in the form of taxes, was turned over to the Romans. Tax collectors were known to add on extra costs that they used for personal gain. Hence, when Jesus called Matthew, he was calling someone who was considered a sinner and one who was on the lower rungs of Jewish society.

None of the Gospels mention the name of the author in their text. The early Christian community knew who the authors were for these texts and provided titles accordingly. Though questioned in modern times, Matthew has been considered the undisputed and uncontested author by the Catholic Church for nearly 1800 years.

Aside from being a tax collector, and likely a scribe, what else do we know about Matthew? In Mt 9:9-10, Lk 5:27-29, and Mk 2:14-15 we are told of the calling of Matthew, the son of Alphaeus, by the words of Jesus, "*Follow me*". He and his disciples then went to his house and sat at table with him and "other sinners".

The only other time Matthew is mentioned by name in the New Testament is at Pentecost, where he was present in the Upper Room.

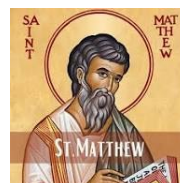
The authors of each Gospel were writing to a specific audience. In Matthew's case, it is believed that he was writing to Jewish Christians living in and around Palestine. Because of this Jewish heritage, Matthew assumes that they were familiar with Jewish customs, practices and the Hebrew scriptures. He refers to more than one hundred quotes and references to the Old Testament, revealing their spiritual meaning as they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Matthew's gospel was written in Hebrew or Aramaic between AD 50 and 100. Various scholars have debated the exact time frame. The original Hebrew version no longer exists; it has been translated into the canonical Greek version.

Some of the information for this article was gleaned from Jeff Cavin's study: "*Matthew, The King and His Kingdom*".

Please join us on Monday evenings at 5:30pm. We meet at St. James for this fabulous study!

Enjoy the Gospel readings according to Matthew during this liturgical year!





Let us Pray to Protect Unborn Children

When the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, the Catholic community was horrified. Babies came under attack in the place where they should be the safest – in their mother's womb. The over 60 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis meant by a "throwaway culture."

However, we have great trust in God's providence.

We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord's help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard. And while, on June 24, 2022, the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision overturned Roe v. Wade, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to preborn children. So, great prayer and advocacy is still very needed. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373, designates **January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children"**: "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen promoted a specific prayer for the Spiritual Adoption of an unborn child in danger of abortion, asking people to pray this daily for nine months, often visualizing the child's development and praying for the parents, too, with the belief that God knows these children and their lives can be saved through prayer.

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.



Area Events

The St. Peter Parish Family Life Soup and Pie Sale event will be held on Saturday, January 24th from 2-5:30 pm and on Sunday, January 25th from 7:30 am until Noon or until items are sold out. This event will be held in the Faustina Room located at St. Peter Church, 800 Fourth Avenue in Stevens Point. Soups: Chicken Noodle, Ham & Bean, Swiss Broccoli, Vegetable Beef Barley. \$10/quart. Assorted variety of homemade pies—all delicious! Prices vary.

St. Adalbert Catholic School Breakfast Event. Sunday, January 25th. 8:30-10:30am. All you can eat. Adults: \$12.00; Children ages 6 to 12: \$6.00. Ages 5 and under: Free.

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.

Ponczka Dance, February 7th. St. Michael, Junction City. Join us 6pm to 10pm 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.

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 Andrlich with any questions: (715) 570-5923.

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