



**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

March 15, 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, March 17th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Art Kordus


Wednesday, March 18th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Florence Laska

Thursday, March 19th 8:15AM @ SJ
Living & Deceased Members of the
Ray & Verona Groholski Family


Friday, March 20th 8:15AM @ SJ
Living & Deceased Members of the Hochmuth Family

Saturday, March 21st 4:00PM @ SJ
+Norm Biadasz

Sunday, March 22nd
8:30 AM @ SJ +Philomena Selensky
10:30AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes


Laetare Sunday
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Prayer for Laetare Sunday

Loving Creator of mine, I feel the pace quicken,
 the time draws near.
 I am filled with joy as I move toward Easter
 and the promised reconciliation with you.
 Teach me to follow the example of your Son,
 to be worthy of being
 called one of his people, a Christian.
 Help me to live each day as he did,
 turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.
 I await the new life with eagerness,
 faith and deep gratitude.
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.

Full color (plus additional) St Mary restoration pictures can be seen on our website. www.sjsmmc.com/restoration

After 4 long months, the huge scaffolding has been removed from the church. With the scaffolding gone, the view of the sanctuary arch from the choir loft is breathtaking!



The company refinishing the pews shared a peek at the work being done on the pews.



As mentioned in the bulletin a couple of weeks ago, due to the deterioration of the plaster behind the surface layer from age/moisture, this surface layer is being removed 4 feet up from the base round the entire church. This will be replaced with new drywall and then the finishing work will be done. The painters shared that the back side of the surface layer is covered in mold.

The unexpected repair of the side walls throughout the church is costing an additional \$27,000. This repair, along with the repairs of the sanctuary arch, has put the project about 6 weeks behind schedule.



Fortunately, the Dedication Mass with Bishop Battersby was scheduled a few weeks out from the initial completion date of the project. The painters and all other crews involved are working hard to ensure all will be ready for May 10th.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Inspired by the Spirit campaign for the restoration. Many have given an additional donation to help cover the cost of the unexpected issues. If you have not yet given to the restoration project to preserve this beautiful historic church, please consider donating. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.



St James

Week Ending March 8, 2026

Received \$4,663
Budget \$3,462
\$1,201

	Month of Feb 2025	Fiscal YTD Feb 2025	Fiscal YTD Feb 2024
Received	\$13,099	\$122,067	\$104,530
Budget	\$15,000 (\$1,901)	\$120,000 \$2,067	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (3/11/2026)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$26,075 (95%)
Families who have Contributed: 49

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending March 8, 2026

Received \$3,763
Budget \$3,923
(\$160)

	Month of Feb 2025	Fiscal YTD Feb 2025	Fiscal YTD Feb 2024
Received	\$14,500	\$133,391	\$138,630
Budget	\$17,000 (\$2,500)	\$136,000 (\$2,609)	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (3/11/2026)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$25,515 (73%)
Families who have Contributed: 64

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Scrip gift cards are on sale this weekend. Our next sale will be on March 29th at the 10:30 am Mass, April 12th at the 10:30am Mass, and April 25th & 26th. You can also purchase cards at anytime by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

St. James Scrip Update

Scrip gift cards are on sale this weekend. Contact Hydye 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!

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Did you know? From our Homebound Ministry

This weekend, we are formally kicking off the **Revival of the Homebound Ministry**, and we are asking for your help.

We would like you to spread the word to any homebound parishioners you are acquainted with and let them know this ministry is now available to them.

The Homebound Ministry is a “work of mercy” as we physically visit people to enable a spiritual connection of homebound individuals with their faith community, and most importantly the ability to receive the Eucharist.

A visit could be to an individual’s home or to an assisted living facility. The visit would offer companionship, prayers, and Holy Communion outside the celebration of Mass.

Prior to 1973, administration of the Eucharist was limited to priests and much time and energy was expended by the priests in this endeavor. Pope Paul VI facilitated the approval of extraordinary ministers (lay people who are not priests or deacons) for this service of bringing the Eucharist to the homebound.

Why is this important? Firstly, we are a community! We should have a close connection to those persons unable to be physically present with us at the celebration of Mass. By bringing the Eucharist to their home, these persons are provided with this privilege of receiving Jesus in the form of the Eucharist. This allows them to feel united with the Sacrifice of the Lord as well as with our community as we show them support and concern.

If you would like a visit from the Homebound Ministry Team to receive Holy Communion and prayers, know of anyone who would benefit, or maybe you would just like to learn more about the Homebound Ministry, please give us a call.

If you would like to become a Homebound Minister, we welcome your support!

God Bless!

Sandy Trzebiatowski (715) 630-6308

Julie Glodowski (715) 340-0004

Jodi Glodowski (715) 630-6827



Our 2026 Lenten Journey



Volunteers are needed on Palm Sunday!


Volunteers are needed for all three Masses to carry up palms for the entrance procession on Palm Sunday. Sign-up sheets are available in the entryways.

12 Volunteers are needed on Holy Thursday!

Volunteers are needed to represent the 12 Apostles having their feet washed by Jesus during the Last Supper. The foot washing ceremony is an important call for all people that we should be willing to serve others. After all, Jesus Himself, the Son of God, washed the feet of His disciples. Sign-up sheets are available in the entryways.



Attention Lectors, Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion! A special sign-up genius for Holy Week was sent out. Please check it out and sign up to help fill all the needed slots for the holiest week of the year!

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

Lenten Material is still available at the entryways. Have you picked up copies for yourself and your family?

Please mark your calendars for the following Lenten Retreat:

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.

Lenten Lessons on the Mass. Father Rocky from Relevant Radio is giving short Lenten lessons on the Mass every day during Lent. These are short and easy to understand for the whole family. Go to Relevantradio.com and sign up.

Triduum Schedule

April 2nd—Holy Thursday 7:00pm -Mass of the Lord’s Supper
April 3rd—Good Friday Noon— Passion of our Lord
April 4th—East Vigil 8:00pm—Easter Vigil Mass
April 5th—Easter Sunday Mass 8:30am | 10:30am

All services will take place at St. James

WINNERS!

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

Ron & Linda Konkol (SJ)
Kathy Stoltz (SM)

Congratulations!

It’s still not too late! Next weekend, our final weekend, we will draw (4) lucky winners!

Would you like a home visit this Tuesday, March 17th from Fr. Jerzy? Please call the office and leave a message before Tuesday morning.



The Great Adventure Bible Study. On Monday, March 16th, Jeff Cavins will be guiding us through Session 9 of the Book of Matthew, Chapter 8, giving us insight into “The King’s Power Demonstrated”. Jeff Cavins will help us to understand the deep meaning of the many miracles that Jesus performed. St. Augustine said, “Cleansing of the leper is a sign of reconciliation. When Jesus touched the leper, he not only cleansed the leper, but he is also reconciling the leper to the community.” Join us for this informative lesson. We will meet on March 16th at St. James at 5:30pm. All are welcome.

Faith Steps



“Let us persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus”

~Hebrews 12:1–2

It's time for a mid-Lent check in!

How is your journey going so far? Maybe you're having the best Lent of your life and all your resolutions are intact. Or, maybe you're feeling stuck in your old habits, losing momentum, starting to feel a mid-Lent slump.

The enthusiasm of the beginning of Lent can fade, and Easter still feels far away. This is actually a normal part of the spiritual journey. Even the disciples sometimes grew tired or discouraged while following Jesus Christ. The middle of Lent is a good moment to reset and refocus rather than give up.

Here are some simple ways you can renew your Lenten spirit:

1. **Start Fresh** - Simply begin again. Lent is about conversion, not perfection. God welcomes every new effort.
2. **Change or add one small practice** - Sometimes a small change helps; read the daily Gospel, add a decade of the rosary, spend an extra 5 min. in prayer.
3. **Focus on Works of Mercy** - Doing something for others can re-ignite the heart.
4. **Go to Confession** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation renews the soul and gives new strength to continue the Lenten journey.
5. **Remember the Purpose** - Lent is not just about giving things up. It prepares our hearts to walk with Christ toward the cross and the joy of the Resurrection.

Area Events

Final Breakfast of the season at the Knights of Columbus: Sunday, March 22nd, serving from 8:15 am to 11 am. Scrambled Eggs, Fried Red Potatoes, ham, sausage, dessert and all you care to eat pancakes for only \$10 adult, \$6 for ages 6-12 and \$4 for under 6 price includes coffee and sales tax.

Sacred Heart Catholic School—Open House. Tuesday, March 24th. 9am-6pm. Tour the school, meet teachers, review curriculum, ask questions! 7379 Church Street, Custer (Polonia). For more information contact the school (715) 600-6942 or Kim Andrich (715) 570-5923. www.sacredheartpolonia.com/school

St Peter’s Annual Pancake Breakfast & Basket Raffle. Sunday, March 29th. Service 8:00am—Noon. 10 and up—\$10. 9 and under— Free.

March 29 – Grilled Pork Chop Dinner, St. Michael (Junction City) **Drive Thru Only.** Serving from 10:30am to 12:30pm Double Chop Meal \$14 includes 2 Grilled & Seasoned Pork Chops, Baked Potato, Green Bean Casserole, Garden Salad, Bread, and dessert.

Jubilee Year of St Francis Pilgrimage. Tuesday, March 31st. 7:15am Bus departs St. Joseph, Stevens Point. Comfort stop in Tomah. Attend Chrism Mass in La Crosse. Tour Maria Angelorum Chapel (Home of the Franciscan Sisters), Lunch on your own. Arrive back at St Joseph approx. 6:30pm. Cost: \$10. Register online at www.PointCatholicFaith.org/chrism or call 715-341-1617. Sponsored by the Stevens Point Deanery.

Parish Staff

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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)

Finance Council

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

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

Committees Chairperson and Co-chairs

Family Life....Laura Gould

Sacred Worship....Judi Marquard | Barb Groholski

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