



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 29, 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 31st 8:15AM @ SJ
→No Mass this Morning (Chrism Mass in La Crosse)
Dcn Art will lead The Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Wednesday, April 1st 8:15AM @ SJ
Living & +Deceased Members of the McDowell Family

Holy Thursday, April 2nd - No morning Mass
7:00 PM @ SJ—Mass of the Lord's Supper
Special Intention for Fr. Jerzy and Dcn Art
Adoration following Mass until 9:00 PM

Good Friday, April 3rd - No Mass
12:00 noon @ SJ—The Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday, April 4th—No 4:00PM Mass
8:00 PM @ SJ—Easter Vigil Mass
+Tony Bronk

Easter Sunday, April 5th
8:30 AM @ SJ +Don & Hazel Shulfer
10:30AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes

HOSANNA!
*Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord!*

**On this day of great rejoicing,
Christ Jesus, when we welcome You
as our King and Savior,
we also walk in the shadow of Your cross.
Hosanna! We cry.
Blessed are You who comes
in God's name to save us. Hosanna!
Strengthen our faith on this Palm Sunday
so that when the time comes to carry the
cross we might still call out to You with
heartfelt praise. Give us grace and courage
to follow You this Holy Week
from death to resurrection,
from darkness to the fullness of light.
We need You, O Christ, our Savior,
Hosanna!
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.

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

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ.

The Passion Reading typically begins with a description of Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We see Jesus' riding on a donkey to the gates of the holy city amidst cheering crowds shouting "Hosanna!"

In the Passion Reading, the crowds reappear – during Christ's trial. **This time they shout "Crucify Him!"** Why, when they had previously shouted "Hosanna"?

There are three reasons for this "Crucify Him!", all stemming from the crowd's misunderstanding of Jesus.

1. They understood that Jesus was preparing a new catastrophe for the country, intending to incite a revolt against the authorities. The authorities were occupying forces, but they nevertheless brought a measure of peace to the country. Commerce and worship were permitted in Jerusalem. The crowds did not need a new upheaval; they did not need civil unrest.
2. They understood that Jesus wanted to destroy the temple. Imagine if someone told us today that he would destroy the churches, one by one. That he would destroy our temples. What feelings would then awaken within us? Wouldn't we shout: Arrest him, sentence him to death! Someone wants to attack our holiness, our sanctity? It may be a sad truth, but it is true that Jesus was accused by religious people. It wasn't unbelievers who shouted: "Crucify him!" Religious people understood that he wanted to destroy the temple! Therefore, deeply moved, they shouted: "Crucify him!"
3. There was another reason. Christ walked and healed. But how many sick people remained unhealed? He healed the man born blind. But how many blind people couldn't see? How many sick people still suffered? These people were disappointed. Why did he make others happy, but not me? Why did He heal this one and not me? People don't like it when happiness comes to someone else and not to them. Then human nature rebels and protests. Am I worse? And we can imagine them shouting, "Crucify Him!" The sick who were not healed cried out in pain, "Crucify Him!" Jesus wants to incite a rebellion; He wants to tear down the Temple and shows compassion for others—but not for me!

They shouted, "Crucify Him!" because they misunderstood Him.

Brothers & Sisters; Christ **does not** wish to incite rebellion; He **does not** wish to destroy anything, but rather to build the Kingdom of God on earth. Christ **does not** seek to be the king of any nation, but desires to reign within our hearts. Christ **does not** fulfill our will, but desires that we fulfill His will.

How do you view Jesus? How do you understand His teachings?

Wishing you all a fruitful celebration of the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

Fr. Jerzy



St James
Week Ending March 22,2026

Received \$7,991
Budget \$3,462
\$4,529

	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 (3/25/2026)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$26,765 (97%)
Families who have Contributed: 52

St Mary of Mount Carmel
Week Ending March 22,2026

Received \$5,007
Budget \$3,923
\$1,084

	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 (3/25/2026)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$25,565 (73%)
Families who have Contributed: 64

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Gift cards are on sale this weekend. Our next sale will be on April 12th (10:30am Mass), and the weekend of April 18th/19th. You can also purchase cards at anytime by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

St. James Scrip Update

Gift cards are on sale this weekend. Our next sale will be April 11th and 12th (8:30am Mass) and then again on April 26th (8:30am Mass). 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.

Thank you for your support!

PLEASE



Attention Lectors, Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion! A special sign-up genius for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter was sent out. Please check it out and sign up to help fill all the needed slots for the holiest days of the year! We need your help. Please sign up!

If you are sensitive to incense, please be aware during the Triduum, we will be using incense on Holy Thursday and the during the Saturday Easter Vigil Mass.



Confessions. If you didn't make it to the Sacrament of Reconciliation yet, Father Jerzy will be hearing confessions 30 minutes before the 7:00pm Mass on Holy Thursday and 30 minutes before the noon Good Friday Service.

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday.

Pamphlets with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and daily intentions for the novena are by the entryways. Check out the bulletin board with information on the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration that will be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Polonia on April 12th.



The Great Adventure Bible Study. Due to Holy Week, there will be no class this week. We'll see you after Easter!

The parish office will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday as usual this week...but closed on Thursday.

We wish you a truly blessed and Holy Easter!

DID YOU KNOW?

New Oils will be Blessed at the Chrism Mass. On Tuesday, Bishop Battersby, joined by the priests from our Diocese (including Fr. Jerzy), will gather at the Cathedral in La Crosse to celebrate the Chrism Mass. This Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop. (If you would like to watch the Mass on Tuesday you can view the live stream here: <https://diolc.org/live/> It begins at 10:30am.)

During this Mass, the Bishop blesses three oils, which are then taken back to each parish and will be used as needed throughout the year. During our Holy Thursday Mass at St. James, the new oils will be brought up during the Offertory.

They are:

- 1) **OI - The Oil of the Infirm or Sick** will be used for the healing of body, mind, and soul. May the sick, who are anointed with it, experience the compassion of Christ and His saving love.
- 2) **OC - The Oil of Catechumens** will be used for the anointing of those preparing for Baptism. Through this anointing they are strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil in all its forms, as they prepare for the saving waters of Baptism.
- 3) **SC - The Sacred Chrism Oil** is a mixture of olive oil and perfume, and will be used to anoint infants after Baptism, those who are to be confirmed, Bishops and Priests at their ordination, and altars and churches at the time of their dedication.



Faith Step

Jesus proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem.
(Luke 19:28)

This week we begin the holiest week of our Church year.

You will be joining Jesus as he enters Jerusalem, making his way to the cross. He invites you to give him thanks and praise for his mighty deeds. He invites you to receive his Body and Blood that he freely poured out for you. And he invites you to stay awake with him, to *“get up and pray that you may not undergo the test”* (Luke:46).

You may not do this perfectly, but just as Jesus freely chose to offer himself for you, you can freely choose to stay close to him.

- * You can read His Word and recall all He did for you.
- * You can sit before the Lord in prayer and participate in the liturgies of the Triduum.
- * You can try your best to love the people around you as Jesus loved you.

And, if you fail, you can receive the mercy He offers from the cross: *“Father, forgive them”* (Luke 23:34).

Will you remain close to Jesus this Holy Week, and join the crowds and shout, “Hosanna!” as Jesus enters Jerusalem?

Did You Know

From our Sacred Worship Committee

During the celebration of our Good Friday liturgy, we undergo the ancient ritual of the unveiling of the cross.

As we adore the cross, a portion of the purple covering is removed three times. In one of his sermons to the Pope on Good Friday, Cardinal Cantalamessa explains this action as the mystery of the cross gradually revealed throughout the centuries.

- The first phase represents the cross as it was prefigured in the Hebrew Testament
- The second represents the historical cross as it was accomplished in the life of Jesus; and
- The third represents the cross of faith as it is celebrated in the Church.

The cross is present throughout salvation history as a figure in the Hebrew Testament, as an event in the New Testament, and as a sacrament or mystery in the Church.

(The Power of the Cross, Good Friday Sermons from the Papal Preacher, Cardinal Cantalamessa, pg 129)

WINNERS!

The final winners from the Annual Appeal Polish Dinner Drawing are:

- Tom & Mitzi Ehr (SJ)**
- Lawrence & Grace Gibbs (SJ)**
- Bill & Hydie Laidlaw (SJ)**
- Mike & Mary Peplinski (SJ)**
- Don & Maggie Trzebiatowski (SM)**
- Adam & Tricia Cohen (SM)**
- Roger & Ruth Lepak (SM)**
- June Schwartz (SM)**

Congratulations!

St Mary Restoration Update

The damaged walls have been repaired. New baseboards will be stained the same as the pews and installed after the walls have been painted.



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

Please continue to keep the restoration project in your prayers.

If you have not yet given to the project, please consider donating to help defray the cost of the unexpected additional work that needed to be done to resolve deterioration issues to preserve our beautiful historic church.

Please make your checked payable to Inspired by the Spirit.

A huge THANK YOU to all who have already donated. St. Mary of Mount Carmel parish is truly blessed.



Area Events

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.

Spaghetti Night. Saturday, April 11th. St Ladislaus Parish. 4:45pm-6:30pm. Cost: Adults \$12; 5-12 years \$7; 4 and under: Free. All proceeds help our Youth Group with future activities and fundraising.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration. Sunday, April 12th. Sacred Heart Parish, Polonia. 8:00am Mass; 9:00am-3:30pm Adoration with Holy Hours; 12:00pm-3:00pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation; 2:00pm Presentation by the Very Reverend Samuel Martin; 3:00pm Divine Mercy Hour/Chaplet. Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. 4:00pm Mass.

Sacred Heart, Cassel 222761 Cty Rd S Marathon, WI We will once again host our Pro-Life Chili Dinner and Raffle. April 19th from 9:30 to 2:00 Adults \$8.00 6-12 \$4.00 5 and under are free. It is an all you can eat event. Chili, crackers, bread, cheese, pickles, milk, coffee and dessert. Please join us.

Parish Staff

Office

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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)

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

