



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 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, February 17th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Don & Hazel Shulfer

Wednesday, February 18th (Ash Wednesday)
8:15AM @ SJ +Richard Rzentkowski
6:00PM @ SJ +John & Emma Megal;
Living & Deceased Family Members

Thursday, February 19th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Joe Modrzewski

Friday, February 20th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Hank Shirek

Saturday, February 21st 4:00PM @ SJ
+Martin & Florence Yach

Sunday, February 22nd
8:30 AM @ SJ +John & Emma Megal;
Living & Deceased Family Members
10:30AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes



O Lady of Lourdes,
Health of the Sick,
I bring my physical, emotional and
spiritual pain to your feet.
Intercede for me before
your Divine Son,
that I may be restored to full health.
Touch me with your healing grace,
That I may serve God
With new strength.
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.

Did you Know?

From Our Sacred Worship Committee

Have you considered the use of the phrase “breaking of the bread” or “broke bread” as we listen to and read the scriptures? As Catholic Christians, we understand this as anticipation of, or referring to, the institution of the Eucharist.

While reading about the feeding of the five thousand and the four thousand in the synoptic Gospels, Matthew reveals to us that Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds (see *Mt 14:19, and Lk 9:16, Mk 8:6*). This is a foreshadowing of the Eucharistic institution in the Last Supper.

At the Last Supper, Paul tells us this about Jesus, “while they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, ‘Take; this is my body’ (*Mk 14:22*). This action is paralleled in the other Synoptic Gospels in the telling of the Last Supper (*Lk 22:19; Mt. 26:26*).

Likely, the earliest written account of the institution of the Lord’s Supper is found in St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians: “For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me’” (*1 Cor 11:23-24*).

After the resurrection, on the road to Emmaus, the men did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. “When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him... They told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread” (*Lk 24:30-31, 35*). Pope Benedict explains how this breaking of the bread is vital to our understanding of the Eucharistic presence (*Verbum Domini, 54-55*).

Luke describes the early Church’s Eucharistic practice and communal life: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers” (*Acts 2:42*), “On the first day of the week, when we were assembled to break bread” (*Acts 2:46*), and Paul “took bread...gave thanks to God...broke it and began to eat” (*Acts 27:35*). Paul asks the Corinthians, “The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?” (*1Cor 10:16*).



As with some other quotes in the bible, “breaking of the bread” has special spiritual significance for us. We understand what the phrase truly means and are privileged to partake of this remembrance of Jesus at every mass.



St James

Week Ending February 8, 2026

Received \$3,405
Budget \$3,462
(\$57)

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



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (2/11/2026)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$23,055 (84%)
Families who have Contributed: 45

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending February 8, 2026

Received \$3,243
Budget \$3,923
(\$680)

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



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (2/4/2026)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$23,619 (68%)
Families who have Contributed: 57

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Scrip gift cards are on sale this weekend! 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.

Thank you everyone for your support!

St. James Scrip Update

Scrip cards are on sale this weekend!. 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.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of +Joe Modrzewski. Joe passed away on February 10th and his funeral Mass was held at St. James this past Friday. Let us remember to pray for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers for his friends and family members who mourn his loss.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.



The Great Adventure Bible Study. On Monday, February 16th, Jeff Cavins will be guiding us through Session 5 of the Book of Matthew, Chapter 5, giving us insight into **“The Tempting of the King”**. Jeff Cavins does an incredible job helping us to understand how Jesus, instead of confronting the Romans who were occupying the land, went out into the wilderness to confront a much tougher foe – the Devil – the real source of Israel’s problems. Join us for this informative lesson. We will meet on February 16th at St. James at 5:30pm. All are welcome.

WINNERS!

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

Mike & Julie Juris (SJ)
James & Jan Rzentkowski (SM)

Congratulations!

...and it’s not too late! We will continue to draw (2) lucky winners each weekend through March 22nd. Every parishioner from each parish who already made, or will make, a donation to the DAA through March 19th will be entered into the drawing for an authentic (and delicious) Polish dinner prepared by Father Jerzy and his sister, Jenny!

Pastoral Council Members. New members to our Parish Councils were welcomed during this past week’s Pastoral Council Meeting. A huge THANK YOU to our existing members for continuing your good works for the parishes and THANK YOU to our new members for your willingness to accept your nomination. Your Pastoral Council members:

St. James: Jill Benjamin, Mike Juris, Bob Schilling, Michelle Shulfer, and Christine Thompson.

St. Mary: Sarah Eron, Julie Glodowski, Jenny Konkol, Justen Pacocha, Karen Piesik, Carol Rudiger, and Judy Zinda.

Our 2026 Lenten Season begins this week!



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18th.

Mass Times:
8:15am
6:00pm



There is a new schedule for the Stations of the Cross. They will be held on Tuesday mornings following morning Mass and at 2:00 pm on Fridays during Lent. All services will be held at St. James.

If you are able, please join us this Friday for the Stations of the Cross at 2:00pm.

Lenten material, including the little Black Book will be available to help us grow closer to Our Lord and to prepare one’s 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.

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 committee members listed below **prior to February 27th** .

St. James Restoration Committee Members

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

Did you miss it? Altar Server Training will be held again next Sunday, February 22nd after the 10:30am Mass. We look forward to seeing you there!



Faith Steps for Lent

Tired of giving up chocolate for Lent this year?

Try these weekly Faith Steps, a new way to approach the 40 days of Lent. By uniting us with Jesus' forty days in the desert, Lent prepares us to celebrate the paschal mystery with gratitude and joy by keeping us firmly centered on the mercy of God. St. Thérèse teaches us that holiness is not found in doing great things, but in doing small things with great love.

Week 1 – A Small Faith Step

Action: Do hidden act of kindness this week and tell no one. Offer it quietly to God.
Scripture: “Your Father who sees in secret will repay you.” (Matthew 6:4)

Week 2 – Faith in the Dark

Action: When something frustrates you, pray, “Jesus, I trust You,” instead of complaining.
Scripture: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” (John 20:29)

Week 3 – Love Is Enough

Action: Choose one difficult person and respond with patience or kindness this week.
Scripture: “Love is patient, love is kind.” (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Week 4 – Let Yourself Be Carried

Action: Each day spend five minutes in silent prayer, placing your worries in God’s hands.
Scripture: “Cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

Week 5 – Offering the Ordinary

Action: Offer one ordinary task each day as a gift of love to God.
Scripture: “Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)



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 on our spring bus trip to the Polish district in Chicago, Thursday March 26. This is a one day trip filled with Polish culture, food and fun. Father Jerzy Rebacz will be escorting the group. Transportation, 2 meals, (one meal is an authentic Polish buffet) prizes and guaranteed fun are included in the cost. The cost is \$140.00 per person with a pick-up in Schofield and Plover. Good for all ages. Minimal walking. Get your Polish sausage and ham in time for Easter. To book or for more details please call Helen Damask @ [715-574-2654](tel:715-574-2654). Booking deadline is Monday March 16th. Book early – seats go quickly!

Breakfast at the Knights of Columbus. Sunday, February 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 Knights of Columbus Clubhouse 401 W Clark St, just across the Clark St Bridge in Stevens Point.



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

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