



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 1, 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 3rd 8:15AM @ SJ
+John & Betty Kowalski

Wednesday, February 4th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Martin & Johanna Glodoski & Deceased Family Members

Thursday, February 5th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Josephine Hoyer

Friday, February 6th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Tracey Gould

Saturday, February 7th 4:00PM @ SJ
+Stephen Piesik

Sunday, February 8th
8:30 AM @ SJ +Christine Wolf
10:30AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes

Prayer for Consecrated Life

*W*eavenly Father,
We pray for those in our diocese who are living consecrated to your Son as Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers, Consecrated Virgins, and all Consecrated men and women set apart for Yourself and for the service of the Church. Please help them live as joyful witnesses of Your kingdom in the world, faithful to the charism of virginity and celibate life. Bless them as they live as spiritual fathers and mothers to your people in great need of knowing You. We pray for the young men and women of our diocese who have the same call to be set apart for the Lord and for the service of the church. Lord, please give them courage to step forth in faith and trust in the great plans that you have for them.

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.

Have you made your Donation to the Diocesan Annual Appeal?

If so, you are in luck! You have been entered into the drawing for an authentic homemade Polish dinner prepared by Fr. Jerzy and his sister!!!

If you have not yet made your donation to the DAA it is not too late. 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!

Beginning next Sunday, February 8th, through Sunday, March 15th, at the 8:30am Mass (1) St. James donor will be drawn and at the 10:30am Mass (1) St. Mary donor will be drawn. On Sunday, March 22nd there will be (4) donors from each parish drawn at the respective Masses.

A total of (10) donors from each parish, along with their spouse or guest, will enjoy a delicious Polish dinner!

The dinner will take place at 6:00pm on Thursday, April 23rd in the St. James Gathering Space.

Please donate to your parish's Diocesan Annual Appeal for a chance to win an

ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS
Polish dinner!!!!



Faith Step

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
~Matthew 5:3

Why did Jesus preach this beatitude?

To be poor in spirit means recognizing our deep need for God. It is the humility to admit that we cannot rely on ourselves alone and that everything we have, faith, strength, forgiveness, and grace, comes from Him.

When we stop trying to control everything and instead trust God, our hearts become more free and more open to God. We trust in him to fulfill our needs rather than trying to prove ourselves or rely on our own resources.

When we are poor in spirit, we are blessed!

We trust in him to fulfill our needs rather than trying to prove ourselves or rely on our own resources. We are at peace with who we are and the way God made us.

The Beatitude invites us to examine where pride or self-reliance may be crowding out our dependence on God. True spiritual poverty frees us to receive His mercy and to live as citizens of His Kingdom here and now.

Question to ask yourself,
"Lord, where am I relying on myself instead of you?"



St James

Week Ending January 25, 2026

Received \$1,834
Budget \$3,462
(\$1,628)

	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 (1/28/26)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$18,455 (67%)
Families who have Contributed: 42

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending January 25, 2026

Received \$3,724
Budget \$3,923
(\$199)

	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 (1/28/26)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$17,965 (51%)
Families who have Contributed: 52

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Our next gift card sales will be on February 14th at the 4:00pm Mass and again on February 15th at the 10:30am Mass. You can order gift cards at any time by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

Thanks for your support!

St. James Scrip Update

Our next gift card sales will be on February 14th and 15th. 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.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



Altar Server Training. We find joy in serving the Lord, especially at His Altar. We are called to participate in "Liturgy", which literally means the "work of the people".

We invite you to follow the calling of the Lord in your heart to serve Jesus, by serving the Priest as he presides at Mass in the 'Person of Christ' at the Altar.

Parishioners who have received 1st Holy Communion, and of any age, are welcome to serve at the Altar.

We welcome couples, families, siblings, individuals, or any combination thereof, to be a part of this important ministry by assisting Fr. Jerzy and visiting priests, as well as your parish family.

Plan to attend either Altar Server Training at St. James church; after the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday, February 14th, or after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, February 22nd. We look forward to seeing you there!



The Great Adventure Bible Study. This Monday, February 2nd, Jeff Cavins will be guiding us through the Book of Matthew, Chapter 2, giving us insight into "**The King in Exile**". Jeff Cavins does an incredible job helping us to understand why Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, the newborn king. Join us for this informative lesson. We will meet on February 2nd at St. James at 5:30pm All are welcome!

This Week! Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. First Thursday (February 5th) and First Friday (February 6th). Join us for Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after the 8:15am Mass on either day.

Please note, there will no longer be First Thursday Adoration from 4:30pm-5:30pm. Other plans are currently being made for Adoration.

Anointing of the Sick. World Day of the Sick is on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11th. We will have Anointing of the Sick at all Masses during the weekend of **February 14th – 15th**. After the homily, Father will invite all who wish to receive the anointing to come to the front as you do for

Communion. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for all who face a serious illness, surgery, or who are impaired by old age. One may celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick many times if needed for strength and healing in mind, body and spirit. In this sacrament of anointing, Christ strengthens our faith and bestows God's grace in a time of anxiety and pain.

Did you Know?

From Our Sacred Worship Committee



On this fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time we hear from the teachings of Jesus in the fifth chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount, he begins with the Beatitudes.

This word in Latin signifies "blessedness" or "supreme happiness". These eight declarations are presented by Jesus as a path toward Christian holiness, wisdom, happiness, and morality.

Jesus emphasizes the role of "littleness" in the quest for the good life. He celebrates "meekness" (humility) as a trait that characterizes a blessed life.

Jesus considers an appetite for "righteousness" (justice) to be a blessed desire and one that will be fulfilled in God's providential plan.

Declaring the "clean of heart" (honesty) to be blessed, he adds that those people will enjoy the promise of seeing God.

Further expressions of "littleness" highlighted by Jesus in this Sermon include: mourning, extending mercy, working for peace, and enduring persecution and suffering for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

Our Lord teaches us that blessedness, or the good life, is not found in achieving personal success, elevated status, or individual honor. Rather, we will achieve the good life by being "little" and striving to do good for others.

Chapters 5 through 7 of Matthew's Gospel are rich in the principles taught by Jesus, including His proclamation that we are the "light of the world". It's a good read, check it out!

World Day for Consecrated Life

On February 2nd, the Feast day of the Presentation of the Lord, the Church invites us to a World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

This celebration is also transferred to the weekend, of January 31st – February 1st so we can better celebrate the consecrated life in our parish families.



As we celebrate Christ being the light of the world, we pray that all consecrated men and women be the light of Christ's presence to all those in the Church as well as in the midst of the world. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Let us pray for and give thanks to those who have answered the call to the consecrated life.

It's Live! Check out our new website: www.sjsmmc.com



Ash Wednesday. February 18th.
Masses will be celebrated at 8:15am and 6:00pm at St James.

In case you missed this... A coffee & tea station has been installed in the gathering space. Stop by to check it out!

This is for everyone to use. Brew a cup or two and stay awhile to talk with family, friends, or someone new! All of the supplies and instructions can be found at the station.

Parents... on Wednesday evenings, please come inside for conversation and a beverage while your child is in class. This was installed with you in mind! Take some time to get to know other parents in the community!



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!



Area Events

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

St. Joseph Parish will hold their Winterfest Fish Fry and Raffle event on Friday, February 13th. 4:30-6:30pm Dine-in or carry out. Phone pre-orders accepted day of: (715) 341-1617.

Blessed Brother James Miller Day | February 13th. Sacred Heart Church in Polonia. All Are Invited! Bl. Br. James Miller Day will be celebrated on Fri. Feb. 13, at Sacred Heart Church in Polonia. 11:00 AM: Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerard Battersby 12:30 PM: Luncheon 1:30 PM: Expert panel: "Remembering Blessed Br. James, Model of Missionary Love" 2:30 PM: Visit to Blessed Br. James' graveside (optional, weather permitting).

Feb. 14 - St. Wenceslaus PCCW Drive Thru Soup Sale from 2 to 4pm. Soups are \$8 a quart with dinner rolls. Soups include Chicken with Homemade Noodles, Ham & Vegetable, Italian Sausage with Vegetables and Taco Soup. It will warm you on a cold day!

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. Call or text Kim Andruch 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
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