



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 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, March 3rd 8:15AM @ SJ
+Joe & Katherine Davis; Living & Deceased Family Members

Wednesday, March 4th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Richard Kostuchowski

Thursday, March 5th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Linda Streno

Friday, March 6th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Living & Deceased Members of the Loecher Family

Saturday, March 7th 4:00PM @ SJ
+Julius & Regina Rzentkowski & All Family Members

Sunday, March 8th
8:30 AM @ SJ Tracey Gould
10:30AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishioners

Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you.

Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, humility and love in my daily walk.

Let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart.

Help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment.

Stay with me through the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort,

wisdom, or guidance, I can always turn to you.

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.

St Mary Restoration Update

The painters have been working hard to keep the project on schedule!

The upper portion of the church is complete. The large scaffolding is scheduled to be removed this week. Smaller scaffolding will be used to complete the work on the walls throughout the church. The repair work on the lower walls around the church continues.



It was discovered this week that the 3 large stained-glass windows above the entrance by the choir are sagging due to the deterioration of the lead—which means in the near future these windows will need to be repaired.



As the painters continue the work along the windows they will let us know if more windows need to be repaired.

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to the restoration. No donation is too small. If you have not yet donated, please prayerfully consider giving to the restoration.

Thank you all again!

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

St James

Week Ending February 22, 2026



Received \$5,651
Budget \$3,462
\$2,189

	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 (2/25/2026)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$25,795 (94%)
Families who have Contributed: 47

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending February 22, 2026

Received \$4,107
Budget \$3,923
\$184

	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 (2/25/2026)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$24,945 (71%)
Families who have Contributed: 62

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC Scrip Update

Gift cards are on sale this weekend! Our next sales will be on March 14th and 15th at the 4:00pm and 10:30am Masses—and then again on March 29th at the 10:30 am Mass. You can also purchase cards at anytime by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

St. James Scrip Update

Scrip cards are on sale this weekend! Our next sales will be on March 14th and 15th at the 4:00pm and 8:30am Masses. 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.
Thank you for your support!

Would you like a home visit this Lent? If you or someone you know, is homebound or living in a care facility and would like Fr. Jerzy to visit and provide the Sacraments, please call the parish office to have your name added to his list.



The Great Adventure Bible Study. On Monday, March 2nd, Jeff Cavins will be guiding us through Session 7 of the Book of Matthew, Chapter 6, giving us insight into **“Personal Piety”**. Jeff Cavins will help us to understand true piety and how it comes from the inside and has to do with motivation as much as with action. Acts performed to be noticed get their own reward, while truly pious actions are done not to be noticed but for God alone. Jesus speaks to people who practiced their faith in the 1st century “To be Seen” – their dress, prayer, almsgiving was done in public rather than doing it for God. Jesus shows what the proper motivation should be. Join us for this informative lesson. We will meet on March 2nd at St. James at 5:30pm. All are welcome.



Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

This Thursday—March 5th
This Friday—March 6th

Following each day’s 8:15am Mass

WINNERS!

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

Mary Barz (SJ)
Bill & Carol Rudiger (SM)

Congratulations!

...and it’s not too late! We will continue to draw (2) lucky winners each weekend through March 22nd.

NEXT SUNDAY !!!
March 8th



BBQ & BINGO

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!

All are welcome!



Our 2026 Lenten Journey

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



Lenten material, including the little Black Book, is available at the entryways to help us grow closer to Our Lord and to help prepare our heart and soul for Holy Week.



Reconciliation. In addition to the weekly confession schedule, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at **St James on Thursday, March 12th beginning at 6:00pm.**

Confession is our time to simply and humbly lay our sins before God and receive the healing He wants to give us. Please consider making it a priority to make it to Confession this Lenten Season!

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.

Did you know? From our Sacred Worship Committee

During Lent, the celebration of Mass in the Roman Rite emphasizes penance and preparation for Easter.

- + The celebrants usually wear violet (purple) vestments, as this is the color of penance.
- + Though not a universal norm of the Roman Rite, some local traditions, such as ours, choose to use wooden clappers instead of bells. This substitution likely originated in monastic practices of the eighth century. Rattles provided auditory signals without the joyful resonance of bells. The clapper evokes nature’s response at Christ’s death (ie earthquake in Matthew 27:51).
- + Flowers are not permitted on the altar, and musical instruments may be used only to support singing, with the exception of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Solemnities, and Feasts.
- + The joyful acclamation of “Alleluia” is omitted, aligning with Lent’s somber tone, suppressing celebratory elements until the Resurrection.

In summary, Lenten Masses prioritize simplicity, scriptural meditation, and penitential discipline.

Faith Steps

"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again.
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.
I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father."
(John 10:17-18)

Do you ever wonder what it was really like to be at the Passion of Jesus?

The Stations of the Cross is one of the most simple, yet powerful, ways to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus and encounter him like never before. We need to learn to place ourselves there, in each scene, seeing, hearing, smelling, and tasting everything that is happening, contemplating what each person in the scene is thinking, feeling, hoping, fearing.

There are fourteen Stations of the Cross. Each is an invitation to contemplate and experience a pivotal moment from Jesus' sentencing to his death to his burial. They are powerful way to step into some of the most significant moments in human history and encounter Jesus like never before.

If you are ready to draw wisdom and inspiration from this rich prayer, **join us on Tuesdays after daily Mass or Fridays at 2:00 pm.** If you can't attend either service, you can pray them on your own, visit the church in your own time or even reflect from your own home. You don't have a pamphlet to follow, no problem, we have extra, just ask the office for one.

Area Events

Join us for Lenten Soup Suppers at St. Ladislaus Parish, Bevent, on Wednesdays March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25. We will be serving Soup, Sandwiches, Salads, and Desserts from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in the church basement. Free Will donation. Weekly Door Prize Drawing. Open to the public

St Adalbert Parish, Rosholt - Fish Fry Serving 4pm to 7:30pm on Fridays Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20 and Mar 27. Menu is Fried or Baked Fish, Fried Shrimp or Combo. All meals include a choice of potato, coleslaw, bread, dessert and coffee or milk. Dine in or take out available.

St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish annual Ham Dinner; Sunday, March 15, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Location: 8611 State Highway 54, Almond WI. Dine-In or Carry-out. Adults-\$14; Children 6 to 12-\$6; Children 5 & under FREE.

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.

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/

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun."

~Saint Josemaría Escrivá



Parish Staff

Office

Veronica Bruske(715) 824-3455
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)

Finance Council

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

Committees Chairperson and Co-chairs

Family Life....Laura Gould

Sacred Worship....Judi Marquard | Barb Groholski

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