



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



August 30, 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, September 1st 8:15AM @ SJ
+Don Spierings

Wednesday, September 2nd 8:15AM @ SM
+Joe Modrzewski

Thursday, September 3rd 8:15AM @ SM
+Mike Trzebiatowski

Friday, September 4th 8:15AM @ SJ
Living & Deceased Members of the Loecher Family

Saturday, September 5th 4:00PM @ SJ
+Robert Lea Jr.

Sunday, September 6th
8:30AM @ SJ +Brandon Somers
10:30AM @ SM Parishioners of our Two Parishes

Back to School Blessing Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we step into a new school year, we pause to give You thanks. Thank You for the gift of teaching, the joy of learning, and the opportunity to shape young hearts and minds. Loving God, we place our students and teachers into your hands as another school year begins. Fill our classrooms with your wisdom, peace, and safety. Grant students eager minds and kind hearts, and give teachers strength, gentle patience, and joy. Keep Students and teachers safe and bring them home with joy at day's end. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Exposition and Benediction Schedule

The First Thursday and the First Friday of every month following the morning Mass.

Confession Schedule

After weekday Masses*

Saturday at 3:30 PM at St James

Sunday after 10:30 AM Mass* at St Mary

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



Faith Step

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Matthew 16:24-25

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that following Him will not always be easy. He speaks openly about His suffering, death, and resurrection, and then asks His followers to take up their own crosses and follow Him.

The cross can represent the struggles, sacrifices, disappointments, and responsibilities we encounter in daily life.

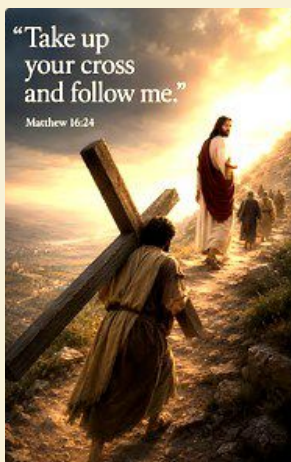
Jesus does not promise that we will have a life without difficulties. Instead, He promises that when we walk through those difficulties with Him, our suffering can become a path toward deeper faith, love, and new life.

Jesus also challenges us to look beyond what the world considers success. We can gain possessions, recognition, or comfort, yet still feel empty inside. What truly matters is whether we are becoming more loving, faithful, generous, and close to God.

Today, choose one cross in your life and consciously place it in Jesus' hands. Instead of asking only, "Why is this happening to me?" try praying,

"Jesus, help me carry this with You and show me what You are asking of me."

Then take one small action of faith—be patient with someone, forgive someone, offer help, pray for someone who is struggling, or simply spend a few quiet minutes with God.



*Jesus,
help me to take up
my cross with
courage and trust.
Teach me to follow You
even when the
road is difficult.
Help me to let go
of what keeps me
from You and
to discover
the true life
You offer.
Amen.*



St James

Week Ending August 23, 2026



Received \$2,214
Budget \$3,462
(\$1,248)

	Month of July 2026	Month of July 2025
Received	\$12,703	\$14,624
Budget	<u>\$15,000</u> (\$2,298)	\$14,624

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending August 23, 2026

Received \$3,437
Budget \$3,923
(\$486)

	Month of July 2026	Month of July 2025
Received	\$11,612	\$14,669
Budget	<u>\$17,000</u> (\$5,389)	\$14,669

SMMC Scrip Update

Our next scrip sale dates are September 6th and 20th! Give Pat Zielinski a call at (715) 824-3762 to purchase and deliver cards to you during the week.

St. James Scrip Update

Scrip is on sale this weekend— Saturday, August 29th and Sunday, August 30th. Contact Hydrie Laidlaw at (715) 347-3544 or stop by the parish office to purchase cards during the week.



Mark your calendars to join us for our

BBQ & Bingo!

This is a family activity
for children and adults.

Sunday: September 13th

Immediately following the 10:30am Mass
Where: SMMC Church Basement

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!



Faith Formation

Classes begin in just over 1 week—Wednesday, September 9th!



Can you help?? If you even thought about it just now...even a little bit...listen and respond to that call! You know more than you think you do and we will assist you with what you need!

⇒ **There is still a need for a facilitator** of the Chosen program from Ascension for Grades 9 & 10. Consider co-teaching with a friend or spouse.

⇒ **Additional room aids** for all grades are also needed. Parents—please consider staying and helping out. Your assistance is welcomed.

Please contact Michelle at sjsmdre@gmail.com.

Teach our children to pray.

Share with them what is good, true and beautiful in the world.



2nd Annual TASTE OF OUR HERITAGE

Sponsored by the parishes of St. James & St. Mary of Mount Carmel



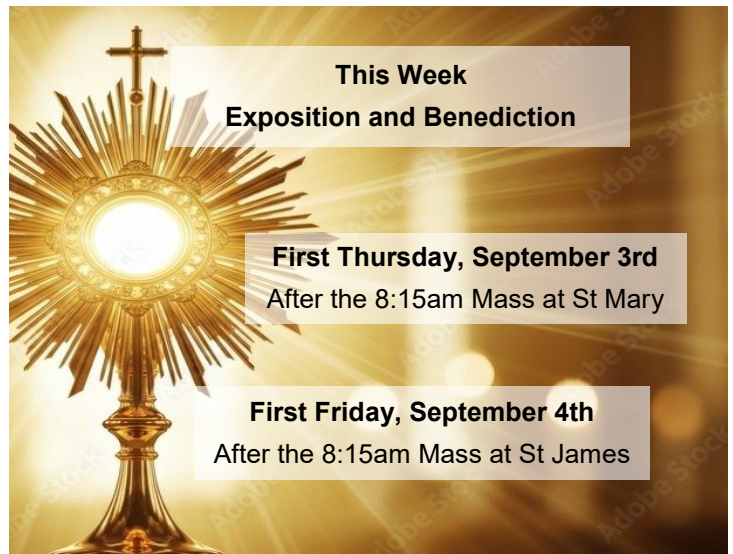
**Saturday, October 10, 2026
5:00-7:00 pm**

We are excited to host our 2nd annual event!! Plan to join us on Saturday, October 10th from 5:00-7:00pm in the St. James gathering space. A wide array of ethnic foods will be served by some of our very talented parishioners.

Tickets will be on sale at the parish office or after each weekend Mass at St. Mary and St. James starting September 12th through Oct. 4th—or you can call: (715) 572-6948. Adults \$15/Children \$5 (5-12 yrs)

Coffee & Donuts. Please join us after the 8:30AM Mass at St. James next Sunday for our coffee and donut social!

😊 **The Sunday School teacher** asks the children to draw Christmas pictures. She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an airplane. "What is this?" she asked. "Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says. "Well... who's the fourth person?" "That's Pontius, the pilot."



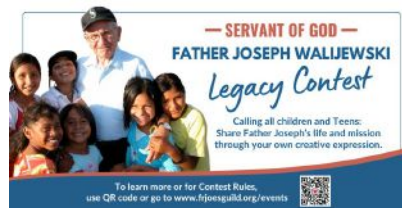
This Week Exposition and Benediction

First Thursday, September 3rd
After the 8:15am Mass at St. Mary

First Friday, September 4th
After the 8:15am Mass at St. James



The Word Among Us. It's time to submit our order for next year's 'The Word Among Us' subscriptions. *The Word Among Us* includes daily meditations based on the Mass readings of the Catholic Church, inspirational essays, testimonies and stories of the saints and other Christian heroes! If you would like an annual subscription for this upcoming year (the first issue begins with November, 2026 and runs through October, 2027) **please contact the parish office by October 1st.** The annual subscription cost is \$21.84. If you are currently receiving a monthly copy, there is no need to contact the office unless you want to cancel your subscription—it will automatically be renewed. Payments can be dropped in the collection basket or mailed/dropped off at the parish office. ~Thank you!



**Servant of God
Father Joseph
Walijewski** devoted his life to the poor—building churches, schools, orphanages and soup kitchens, and bringing

the love of Christ to those who needed it most. Now there's a meaningful way to introduce his story to the next generation: the Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Contest.

Open to children and teens, the contest invites young people to learn about Fr. Joe's life of faith and service, then express what they've discovered through their own creativity. Entries can take almost any form—drawing, painting, storytelling, poetry, sculpture, photography, music, digital art, or another medium of the young artist's choosing.

If there's a child or teen in your life, consider encouraging them to take part. Awards will be given in three age divisions, plus a \$150 Best of Show—but more than that, it's a chance to help carry Fr. Joe's legacy forward. Entries are due October 30, 2026. Scan the QR code for the complete contest flyer, rules, and submission details.



Area Events

Join us on our fall bus trip to the Polish district in Chicago, Thursday October 15th. This is a one day trip filled with Polish culture, food and fun. Father Jerzy Rebacz and Helen Damask 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. To book or for more details please call Helen Damask @ [715-574-2654](tel:715-574-2654). **Booking deadline is September 30th**. Book early – seats go quickly!

Sept. 25 (postmarked) – Ponczka Pre-Order Sale, St. Michaels (Junction City). St. Michael's PCCW is taking pre-orders for Ponczka's the cost 1/\$2 or 4/\$5 these are a little larger Ponczka size this year. Flavors: Raspberry, Bavarian crème, Plain, Lemon, Blueberry, and Prune. Make Checks payable to St. Michael's PCCW, mailed orders must be post-marked by 9/25 mailed to B. Zarecki 5841 CTY RD O Rudolph, WI 54475 | Questions Brionna 715-540-0327 or Kylee 715-457-5265. PICK UP is on Sunday, October 18 from 8:30am to 12pm at the St. Michael Hall during the ProLife Walk & Basket Raffle.

Oct. 4 – Parish Chicken Dinner – DRIVE THRU ONLY St. Wenceslaus (Milladore) serving from 11am to 1pm. Meals are \$15 and includes: Chicken breast and thigh, dressing, Potatoes, Sauerkraut with Sausage, Carrots, Dessert and Kolaches

Point Catholic Faith Bus Trip. Clauson Family Music Show. Wednesday, October 7th. Join us as we travel for the Clauson Family Music Show. We will enjoy a tasty buffet and a lively Rock-n-Roll show. The cost for this trip is \$105/person and includes bus, buffet and show. Register today. Call the office: (715) 341-1617 or visit www.pointcatholicfaith.org/trips.

St. Joseph Galloway Fall Breakfast. Sunday, October 11th. Buffet style breakfast. 9:30-11:30a (after 8:30am Mass). Scrambled eggs, ham & sausage, blueberry French toast bake, potato pancakes, fresh fruit, desserts and beverages!

Vendor welcome to showcase your goods at the St. Ladislaus Parish annual Fall Noodle & Bake Sale, sponsored by the St. Ladislaus Rosary Society, on Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in reserving a spot, please call Sue Zajackowski (715-446-3165) or Geraldine Furmanek (715-297-1658).

GIVEN: Unveiling the Mysteries of Marriage One Day Retreat. Saturday Oct 17, 2026 from 8AM-2:30PM at St. Joseph Parish, Stevens Point. *"God destined us to experience communion with our spouse as an expression of our communion with him. This is what we vowed when we married and what it means to be devoted."* (Schuchts 171). All ages and stages of married, engaged, and dating couples are encouraged to attend. More information and registration information at <https://tinyurl.com/5n99zzhk>

Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one is in need of the Anointing Sacrament, especially before a hospital stay or procedure, please contact the parish office. Keep in mind that hospitals do not automatically notify the parish or priest.

Marriage

Couples requesting the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage should contact the office at the time of engagement, at least six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage. If a couple wishes to be married as a registered parish member, they must actively participate in the faith (Sunday worship) and be a registered member of our parish at least 3 months prior to requesting the Sacrament of Marriage. Weddings are not celebrated during Lent.

Baptism

Parents may request the baptism of their infant at least two months prior to the anticipated date of baptism. Family should be members of our parish, they must actively participate in the faith (Sunday worship) and be a registered member of our parish. To request baptism, please call the parish office at (715) 824-3455.

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)

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

Homebound Ministry

Sandy Trzebiatowski...(715) 630-6308
Julie Glodowski..... (715) 340-0004
Jodi Glodowski (715) 630-6827
Barb Groholski (715) 824-3649



GriefShare Ministry

Cindi(715) 570-0755
Shawn.. (715) 570-5082



United Prayers to Heaven Prayer Chain

Laurie.....plhintz5@gmail.com
Darlene.....(715) 592-4443
Barb.....(715) 824-3649