

**ST. JAMES
ST. MARY MOUNT CARMEL
PARISHES**

**453 S. Main St. P.O. Box 280
Amherst, WI 54406
715-824-3455**

-- Fr. Jerzy Rebacz --

**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**Parish Website: sjsmmcc.weconnect.com
myparishapp.com/download**



Sunday, December 12th, 2021

Mission Statement:

We, the stewards of St. James and St. Mary Mount Carmel Parishes in the Diocese of LaCrosse, strive to live as disciples of Christ.

Vision Statement:

As Parishioners of St. James and St. Mary 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.



Weekday Mass Intentions

- Tuesday, December 14th, 8:15 AM @ SJ
.....Maynard Shulfer
- Wednesday, December 15th, 8:15 AM @ SM
.....James Ostrowski
- Thursday, December 16th, 8:15 AM @ SM
.....Carl Adamski
- Friday, December 17th, 8:15 AM @ SJ
.....Barbara Sternik

Weekend Mass Intentions

- Saturday, December 18th, 4:00 PM @ SJ
.....Harry & Irene Hintz
- Sunday, December 19th, 8:30 AM @ SJ
.....Parishioners of Our Two Parishes
- Sunday, December 19th, 10:30 AM @ SM
.. Max & Rose Trzebiatowski & Deceased Family Members

Kids Prayer for Advent

My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me. Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God, Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins so that I can change the things that You want me to change.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do. You said Yes to all that God asked of you. Please pray for me that I may do the same. I love You, Jesus. Amen

ADORATION:

St. Mary: First Thursday of the month after morning Mass.

St. James: First Friday of the month after morning Mass; Third Sunday of the Month from 4:00-6:00 PM

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

After weekday Masses at respective Church. Saturday at 3:30 PM at St. James.

Sunday after 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary. **PARISH RECONCILIATION DAY:** December 20th, 6:30pm-St. Mary
(Leave a note in Sacristy for Father before Mass if you wish to go to Confessions after Mass)

UPCOMING SPIRITUAL RETREAT



We will be having a Spiritual Retreat on December 18th & 19th at our weekend Masses at both St. James & St Mary of Mount Carmel.

Our special guest speaker is Mother Agnes of the Seraphic Adorers of the Child Jesus.

Mother M. Agnes is the superior of the Seraphic Adorers of the Child Jesus, a contemplative community of sisters in the Diocese of La Crosse. The community is dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration and promoting devotion to the Divine Child Jesus. She will be sharing with us on how we can spiritually prepare for Christmas. We are grateful for the time she will be spending with our parish community.

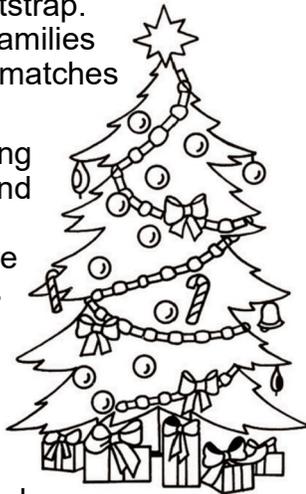
GIVING TREE:

Please bring gifts by December 19th

The Giving Trees have arrived In the gathering space at St. James and in the back of Church at St. Mary. Family Life Committee is sponsoring two families through Operation Bootstrap. Operation Bootstrap identifies families in need in Portage County and matches them with local organizations.

As a community we are collecting gifts for the children and food and other goods for the family. The gifts are things the children have requested and stocking stuffers for the family. Our families include adults, teenagers, and children as young as two.

Please take an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift, and return it to the church unwrapped with the ornament you took from the tree by December 19th. We are also requesting gift cards to local grocery stores to purchase fresh food items for the family such as a turkey, milk, eggs, fruits and vegetables. If you have any questions please contact Misty at mistyprater@gmail.com or 785-633-5206 (call or text). Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Stewardship
a way of living

St. James Contributions

Week Ending December 5, 2021

Received \$3,545
Budget \$3,430
\$115

	Month of Nov 2021	Jul 2021- Nov 2021	Jul 2020- Nov 2020
Received	\$17,658	\$62,170	\$67,234
Budget	<u>\$14,578</u> \$3,080	<u>\$72,890</u> (\$10,720)	

St. Mary of Mt Carmel Contributions

Week Ending December 5, 2021

Received \$3,061
Budget \$3,564
(\$503)

	Month of Nov 2021	Jul 2021- Nov 2021	Jul 2020- Nov 2020
Received	\$16,144	\$60,875	\$51,005
Budget	<u>\$15,148</u> \$996	<u>\$75,740</u> (\$14,865)	

Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC SCRIP UPDATE: Scrip will be sold after Mass next weekend, December 19th. If you would like to order gift cards for Christmas gifts, please place your order by December 12th. Call Pat Zielinski at 715-824-3762, or by e-mail to zielinskifarm@gmail.com Cards can be delivered to your home. Thanks to everyone who has supported our Scrip gift card program!

ST. JAMES SCRIP CARDS: Scrip will be sold every weekend at St. James beginning in November after the Saturday evening and 8:30 mass on Sunday. Scrip cards are great options to use as Christmas gifts – only 2 weekends left to shop, so be sure to get your order in ASAP for the best selection. Stop by the parish office during office hours or check out all the options we have after the mass. Contact Hydie Laidlaw at 715-347-3544 for more information.

Please contact Hydie Laidlaw or Pat Zielinski for more information.

Christmas Mass Schedule



Friday, Dec. 24th..... 4:00pm St. James
Friday, Dec. 24th.....10:00pm St. Mary
Saturday, Dec. 25th 10:00am St. James
(There will be no 4:00pm Mass on Saturday 12/25)

Parish News...

Parish Reconciliation Day Monday, December 20

December 20th * 6:30pm
St. Mary Mount Carmel

2022 PARISHIONER GIVING ENVELOPES:

Will be available beginning the weekend of December 18th & 19th, at your respective parish.

GAUDETE SUNDAY WHAT IS IT AND WHY

ROSE COLOR: Gaudete is a Latin verb that means rejoice. Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the usually penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid point of Advent. Why Rose color vestments? On Gaudete Sunday, having passed the mid point of Advent the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest wears rose vestments. The change in color provides worshipers with encouragement to continue their spiritual preparation, especially prayer & fasting for Christmas.

HOW TO HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS:

If you want to have a very Merry Christmas, it starts now by making it a great Advent! St. John the Baptist prepared people for the coming of Christ by calling them to conversion and repentance. Christ is coming again, this year on Christmas Day. So if you want to have a very Merry Christmas, it begins right now in Advent with personal conversion and repentance.

If you go to Confession before Christmas and make it a good Confession, you will have a Merry Christmas because the Sacrament of Confession is the Sacrament of Joy. There is nothing better than to be in the state of grace.

If you need any help going to Confession, just go to MY PARISH APP, and you'll find the Confession Helper on the top right hand side. You will find, How - To Guide, Examination of Conscience & Act of Contrition.

And if you can't remember any of your sins, just ask the people you live or work with, and they'll tell you.

JANUARY WORD AMONG US are in and available for pickup at respective parish.

PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT:

In the Dobbs Case, heard on Dec. 1st, by the Supreme Court, could make abortion illegal in the United States & save countless lives. Be a part of this historical event by your continuation of prayers and fasting to Our Lady's intercession for the end of abortion.

ADORATION:

Sunday, December 19th, at St. James 4-6 pm
It's the giving season, have you given your time to Jesus

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP:

St. James on Monday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 pm to discuss and reflect on Father Mike Schmitz's 365 Daily Bible Study. All are welcome.

ADVENT INSPIRATIONS:

It's not too late to sign up for the Daily Inspiration from Father Rocky on Relevant Radio. Bring some joy into your world and learn about some Christmas traditions. Go to Relevantradio.com

December 18th/19th Meal after Mass:

Join us for a fellowship meal after the 4pm Mass on Saturday, December 18th at St. James and after the 10:30am Sunday morning Mass on December 19th at St. Mary. Any questions or to help with clean-up please contact Misty Prater (text or call) 785-633-5206 or mistyprater@gmail.com

ALTAR SERVERS:

St. James and St. Mary's are in desperate need of Altar Servers. We are looking for people of all ages to serve. Once trained, you can serve at any Mass you attend in our parishes regardless of which parish you belong to. If you would like more info. or would like to arrange a training, contact Theresa Shulfer: tmsulfer@gmail.com 715-592-4477 or Trish Cohen: cohen@wi-net.com

RECYCLE YOUR SCRAP METAL... FOR THE CHURCH:

We again have an offer to assist our parishioners with the disposal & recycling of Scrap Metal with proceeds going back to our churches. The offer includes access to a high traffic area for parishioners to park and sell their used vehicles, just asking a small donation for the use of the area which will come back to our churches. Please adhere to the following:

ABSOLUTELY NO ITEMS WITH FREON ARE ALLOWED. ALSO, DROP OFF ITEMS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please comply with these requests or unfortunately this program that benefits our parishes will no longer be available to us. For more information and/or to set up an appointment, please call 715-347-5295.

MARRIAGE:

Couples requesting the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage should contact the office at the time of formal engagement of at least six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage. If a couple wishes to be married as a registered member of our parish, 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.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK:

If you or a loved one is in need of the Anointing Sacrament especially before a hospital procedure please contact the office.

UNITED PRAYERS TO HEAVEN

PRAYER CHAIN:

Notice to all Parishioners. If you or anyone you know is in need of prayers, please let us know. We will keep your name & prayer request confidential, names are included only if you so desire.

CONTACTS FOR PRAYER CHAIN:

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

Faith Formation...

GREAT RESOURCES TO HELP YOU LEARN

and Grow in your Faith: stpaulcenter.com – Click upper right ‘Log In’, then enter Email: sjsmevangelization@gmail.com -- Password: WeBelieve -- Click on Bible Studies (upper left), then click on Video Studies, scroll down to Genesis to Jesus or whichever study you would like and click on the blue “Watch Now” button to begin.

TO SIGN UP FOR FR. MIKE SCHMITZ’S

new podcast, ‘The Bible in A Year’:
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration> - Father Mike will be using The Great Adventure Bible Timeline learning system, developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins.

CELEBRATING YOUR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN 2022???

If so, please contact the office at 715-824-3455 before Christmas. This information needs to be forwarded to the Diocese for the 50th Jubilee Wedding Celebration.

IS THE LORD CALLING YOU?:

Have you ever wondered if the Lord is calling you to be a priest? To begin the conversation or to inquire about what it means to be a priest, please contact: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

Parish Staff

Office:

Tina Maves
PH: 715-824-3455
catholiccentral54406@gmail.com

Send your Ambo announcements into office via email by Noon Tuesday

DRE/Parish Life Coordinator:

Ann Hemmy
PH: 715-316-7056
sjsmdre.plc@gmail.com

Bookkeeper:

Sandy Trzebiatowski
sjsmbkkpr@gmail.com

Bulletin:

bulletininfo06@gmail.com
Please send your request via email by **midnight Sunday**. Please refrain to a maximum of 100 words and in a word document.

Church Councils

Pastoral Council

Cindi Borski SM
Shawn Lea SM
Steve Piesik SM
Judy Zinda SM
Justen Pacocha SM
Barb Gutschow SM
Michael Juris SJ
Michelle Shulfer SJ
Christine Thompson SJ

Finance Council

Mark Doll SM
Gilbert Patoka SM
Sharon Stratton SJ
Sandy Trzebiatowski SJ

Committees Chairperson Co-chairs

Family Life: Laura Gould & Tiffany Ostrowski

Sacred Worship: Judi Marquard & Barb Groholski

Social Concerns: Pat Zielinski and Laura Trzebiatowski - Przekurat

Education: TBA

Stewardship: TBA