



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

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

**-- Fr. Jerzy Rebacz --
Deacon Art Schaller**

**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

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



Sunday, December 25th, 2022 - Merry Christmas!

Mission Statement:

*We, the stewards of St. James and St. Mary of 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 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.*



THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASSES IN JANUARY

Weekday Mass intentions will be honored by Father Jerzy

DEACON ART will lead Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist
Tuesday, Dec. 27th - 8:15AM@ St. James
& Thursday, Dec. 29th - 8:15AM @ St. Mary Mount Carmel

Weekday Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 27th Byron Shaw

Wednesday, December 28th Richard Rzentkowski

Thursday, December 29th Patricia Marquard

Friday, December 30th Lee Ryczek

Weekend Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 31st, **4:00 PM** @ SM

..... Julius & Regina Rzentkowski

Sunday, January 1st, 8:30 AM @ SJ

..... Alexis Chandler

Sunday, January 1st, 10:30 AM @ SM

..... Parishioners of Our Two Parishes

**A Humble Prayer
for Christmas**

God, our Creator, we offer this humble prayer on Christmas Day. We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts, a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray for your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

ADORATION

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

St. James: First Friday of the month after morning Mass;
First Thursday of the Month from 4:30-5:30 PM

- NO CONFESSION TIMES SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY -



“Do not be afraid, behold, I am announcing to you a great joy that will be shared by all the people; today a Savior has been born to you in the city of David...”

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

The time of meeting with God is not only a time of meeting, but above all listening and discerning. We listen to one another, but we especially want to hear what God is saying to the church – to us.

God is speaking to us at this time through the experience of the Nativity of His Son. Today we experience the closeness and power of God. No matter how difficult the situation we find ourselves in may seem, we experience His love, so extraordinary and pure as a newborn child. Like shepherds, we give glory and honor to Jesus, who by blessing, gives us the strength to bring the Good News and share it with others.

On this Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I wish you, Sisters and Brothers, the ability to listen to God who reveals himself in small things. I wish you the ability to listen to your neighbor, both the close ones (husband, wife, children, parents, grandparents, relatives and friends) and the neighbor who seems to be far away – differently thinking, distance from the church, asking for support through whom God also reveals himself. I wish you to be heard and listened to, especially when you share things that are important to you. For no one – in the name of Emmanuel, God is with us – can be forgotten, misunderstood, or pushed away by another, so that the situation with Bethlehem would never be repeated, when the Son of God “*had no place in the inn*”.

May these Christmas wishes, throughout the New Year 2023, be accompanied by the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Fr. Jerzy*

P.S. I am leaving for the month of January. I will depart from Chicago O'Hare to Krakow, Poland at 10pm on Christmas Day. I will greet the beginning of the New Year with the Franciscan friars in Krakow, where I will hold a two-week priestly retreat. I ask for your prayers and I assure you of my daily prayers for you. I also plan to visit my university and renew old acquaintances. I still have a few things to take care of after the death of my parents; some family visits and of course hunting with my forestry brothers. Many Blessings to all of you!



Stewardship

a way of living

St James

Week Ending December 18, 2022

Received \$2,360

Budget \$3,430
(\$1,070)

	Month of Nov 2022	Jul 2022 - Nov 2022	Jul 2021 - Nov 2021
Received	\$13,543	\$60,847	\$49,342
Budget	<u>\$14,578</u> (\$1,035)	<u>\$72,890</u> (\$12,043)	

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending December 18, 2022

Received \$3,569

Budget \$3,564
\$5

	Month of Nov 2022	Jul 2022 - Nov 2022	Jul 2021 - Nov 2021
Received	\$19,487	\$65,447	\$52,047
Budget	<u>\$15,148</u> \$4,339	<u>\$75,740</u> (\$10,293)	

Support Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC SCRIP UPDATE:

Scrip Cards can be purchased at any time by calling Pat Zielinski at 715-824-3762.

Thanks to everyone who supports Scrip

ST. JAMES SCRIP CARDS:

Scrip cards make excellent gifts while supporting your parish. Stop by the parish office during office hours or contact Hydrie Laidlaw at 715-347-3544 for more information.

***Please contact Hydrie Laidlaw or
Pat Zielinski for more information.***

Parish News...

Tuesday, December 27th at St. James:

Deacon Art will be leading Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion beginning at 8:15AM

Thursday, December 29th at St. Mary:

Deacon Art will be leading Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion beginning at 8:15AM

PRO-LIFE:

With the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas, don't forget to pray for the end of Abortion and for the Unborn. ***Jesus, Mary and Joseph I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.***

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI)

Religious family traditions and customs bring truth of faith into the home. One of these beautiful customs is the OPLATKI (Christmas Wafer). The Breaking of Bread is a sign of charity, unity, and fellowship. The wafer is blessed and broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. A simple prayer is said for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family. The prayer is on the back of the Christmas Wafer packet. They can be found at the entryways.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JAMES

WILL RESUME JAN 2 AT 5:30PM:

There will not be Bible Study until Monday, January 2, 2023. Consider joining in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

We welcome donations towards the Christmas flowers. Please put money in an envelope marked with your name and Parish and note, 'FLOWERS'

BOOKS FOR PARISHIONERS FOR CHRISTMAS:

The Sacred Worship Committee has ordered books for Parishioners for Christmas. They are, "Holy Moments" and "The Wisdom of the Saints". Please pick up a copy for your family to enjoy.

Thank You – Thank You:

A special Thank You to all who helped decorate St. Mary's for Christmas. It was wonderful seeing so many volunteers and young families joining in to make our parish beautiful for the Christmas Season. We thank Betty Przekurat and Cindi Borski for organizing and leading the volunteers. God bless you all for sharing your time and talent.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

St. James Coffee & Donuts Thank you to everyone that has been helping with coffee and donuts! We will not be doing coffee and donuts on January 1st. We will resume on February 5th. We need volunteers for the upcoming months. Please contact Misty at mistyprater@gmail.com or 785-633-5206 (call or text) or sign-up in the back of St. James. We have easy to follow instructions and I am always available for questions. Thank you!

NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK AND THRU THE MONTH OF JANUARY

at St James or St. Mary. Father Jerzy will be traveling to Poland. Weekday Mass intentions will be honored by Father.

“DID YOU KNOW”

from the Sacred Worship Committee

'TIS THE SEASON TO REJOICE!

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS:

As the familiar 18th century English Christmas carol reminds us, the Christmas Season, also known as Christmastide, extends far longer than just the day of Christmas. In the Church year, Christmas day is the first of the 12 days of Christmas. The last night, twelfth night, is January 7th, the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 8th. Christmas is meant to be not just a celebration of the baby Jesus or Jesus' birthday but a summary of our lives in relation to God's intimate, incarnate presence with us today.

In the early Eastern Church, the Epiphany was the primary celebration of both Jesus' birth and his manifestation to the world. It was associated with the winter solstice when the sun's light began to be renewed for another year. In the Roman West, in the 3rd century, the celebration of Jesus' birth was shifted to December 25th to compete with the pagan festival of the “unconquered sun” and the time until Epiphany became the Christmas Season. From the 4th century on, Christmas, with its focus on Christ's incarnation as a truly human person like ourselves. During this blessed season we are constantly reminded of God's love and desire to be with us & for us to share in the divine life.

Did you know December 28th is the day set aside for The Holy Innocents:

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was “greatly troubled” when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of “the newborn king of the Jews,” whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also “do him homage.” They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Herod became furious and “ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under.” **Reflection:** The Holy Innocents are few in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth, a human person, destined for eternity, and graced by Jesus' death and resurrection.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

2023 Contribution Envelopes will be Mailed

New this year - the 2023 Contribution Envelopes will be **mailed** to your homes. Our Parishes are set up for quarterly mailings. The January-March envelopes should arrive by the end of this year.

Please watch for your 2023

Contribution Envelopes coming in the mail soon.

Our Parish Family

Continue to pray for the repose
of the souls of:

- ▷ Joseph Studzinski ▷ Carol Shulfer
▷ Andrew Kurszewski ▷ Clifford Pacocha

We welcome this child through the living waters of Baptism:

- ▷ Daughter of
Michelle Rzentkowski & Alexander Wardall



**Have you signed up for our
New Year's Adoration??**

We have several open time slots. What better way to welcome the New Year then to spend it with our Lord Jesus in the Eucharist. Make plans to attend *ADORATION to Ring in the New Year with Jesus and Mary*'.

Adoration will begin at St. Mary's at 5:00pm on December 31 & will conclude with Benediction at 1:00am on January 1st

Sign-ups are available at both parishes. All are welcome.
Be sure to sign up; Jesus will be waiting for you!

Parish Staff

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

Send your Ambo announcements into the office via email by Noon Tuesday

Ann Hemmy
sjsmparishlife@gmail.com

Bookkeeper:
Sandy Trzebiatowski
sjsmbkkpr@gmail.com

DRE:
Michelle Shulfer
PH: 715-316-7056
sjsmdre@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

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

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

Committees Chairperson Co-chairs

Family Life: Laura Gould & Misty Prater

Sacred Worship: Judi Marquard &
Barb Groholski

Social Concerns: Pat Zielinski and
Laura Trzebiatowski-Przekurat