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
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

Sunday, March 27, 2022

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, March 29th, 8:15 AM @ SJ
.....Marie Groshek
Wednesday, March 30th, 8:15 AM @ SM
..... Jerome C Iwanski & Margaret R Iwanski
Thursday, March 31st, 8:15 AM @ SM
..... Deceased Member of Anton & Agatha Konkol
Friday, April 1st, 8:15 AM @ SJ
..... Michael & Emily Wierzba

FRI., APRIL 1st HEALING MASS, 12pm @ ST. MARY

Weekend Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 2nd, ***4:00 PM*** @ SJ
...Ambrose & Evelyn Pionkowski & Deceased Family Members
Sunday, April 3rd, 8:30 AM @ SJ
..... Leo & Delores Kurszewski
Sunday, April 3rd, 10:30 AM @ SM
.....*Parishioners of Our Two Parishes*

MEMORARE

LET US PRAY FOR THE END OF ABORTION & PEACE IN UKRAINE

Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. 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.
(Leave a note in Sacristy for Father before Mass if you wish to go to Confessions after Mass)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Tuesday, March 29 & April 5
5:30 p.m. at St. James
Friday, April 1 & 8 - 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary
The Rosary will be prayed a half an hour before Stations for Peace in Ukraine and Conversion of Russia.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 14th
6:00p.m. Mass at St. Mary

Good Friday, April 15th
12:00 p.m. Service at St. Mary

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 16th
8:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17th
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. James
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary

Liturgical Ministries

Users & Greeters
4th in a Series

What you are is God's gift to you...
What you become is your gift to God!

USHERS AND GREETERS

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

Ushers and greeters welcome those attending Mass with a kind face and a warm heart and help them to feel comfortable in the worshipping environment. Their smile and warm reception set the tone for the liturgy by welcoming both friends and newcomers to be at home as they enter the church and assemble for prayer. This helps to draw the people together as family and opens them to participation. Extending hospitality imitates God's gracious welcome to all who enter.

Being a welcoming community is very important. Our greeters and ushers are the first face of the parish. They greet those coming into our church, offer assistance to those in need, choose gift bearers for offertory, take up the collection, usher people for Communion, and distribute bulletins and other materials as needed. They help to sort the offertory collection, and check pews, lifting kneelers and putting hymnals in place. The role of an usher and greeter is one of welcoming with warmth, friendship, respect, and a true attitude of joyful service.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
Colossians 3:23-24

We welcome high school students, adults, and families to join this ministry. Did God bless you with the gift of joy in your heart? Does it warm your heart when you bring a smile to another? Is God calling you to this ministry?

Stewardship
a way of living

St. James

Week Ending March 20, 2022

Received	$4,434
Budget	$3,430
	$1,004

	Month of Feb 2022	Jul 2021-Feb 2022	Jul 2020-Feb 2021
Received	$12,711	$107,329	$108,976
Budget	$14,578	$116,624	
	($1,867)	**($9,295)**	

St. Mary of Mt Carmel

Week Ending March 20. 2022

Received	$2,710
Budget	$3,564
	($854)

	Month of Feb 2022	Jul 2021-Feb 2022	Jul 2020-Feb 2021
Received	$10,230	$111,013	$98,873
Budget	$15,148	$121,184	
	($4,918)	**($10,171)**	

Support
Scrip Gift Cards

SMMC SCRIP UPDATE:
Scrip Gift Cards will be sold on April 3rd and April 17th. Cards can be purchased at any time by calling Pat Zielinski at 715-824-3762. Thank you to everyone who supports our gift card program.

ST. JAMES SCRIP CARDS:
Scrip will be on sale this weekend, March 26-27, following the Saturday afternoon and Sunday mass. Stop by the parish office during office hours or contact Hydie Laidlaw at 715-347-3544 for more information.

Please contact Hydie Laidlaw or Pat Zielinski for more information.

Parish News...

WASHING OF FEET ON HOLY THURSDAY:
Volunteers are needed to represent the 12 Apostles having their feet washed by Jesus. Jesus performed a final act of service for his Disciples, following the Passover meal. Arising from the table, He tied a towel about His waist and filled a basin with water, then, one after another He washed the feet of each disciple except Judas, who already departed to betray Jesus. We encourage men, women and children to sign up. Sign up sheets are available at both parishes.

NO FIRST FRIDAY GROUP:
No First Friday Group this Friday, April 1st at St. James. Join us at Noon for the Healing Mass at St. Mary Mount Carmel.

A SINCERE THANK YOU:
to Ray and Betty Przekurat for donating the new alter for the tabernacle at St. James. Additional thanks to both for sharing their talent and craftsmanship in creating the altar. It will bring lasting beauty to St. James. Their generosity is greatly appreciated

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED: The Lincoln Center needs volunteer drivers to deliver meals to the homebound in the Amherst area. If interested contact: Jenny Studczynski at 715-346-1401

TUESDAY LENTEN DINNERS: Join us for dinner after Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays during Lent at St. James. This is an opportunity for community prayer (at Stations) and fellowship (at dinner). Stations start at 5:30, dinner will follow in the gathering space around 6pm. Dates are March 29th, and April 5th. Free will donations will go towards the cost of the meals. If you have questions or would like to help with set-up or clean-up, please contact Misty Prater at mistyprater@gmail.com or 785-633-5206 (call/text).

HEALING MASS- FRIDAY, APRIL 1
AT ST. MARY MOUNT CARMEL, 12:00 PM

"Is anyone among you sick? They should call for the priests of the church, and he will pray over them and anoint the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed any sins, they will be forgiven." - *Letter of St James 5:14-15*

We begin our Lenten Mission with the Mass of Healing. During this Mass, the Anointing of the Sick will be given to all who wish to receive the grace of healing. Suffering and illness affect us in body and spirit. If one member suffers in the Body of Christ, which is the Church, all the members suffer with that member. In times of frailty, sickness, treatment, or surgeries the parish family assures the help of our care and support through our prayers, personal visits and the Anointing of the Sick.

WHO CAN RECEIVE THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK? The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for all who face a serious illness or surgery or who are impaired by old age. It is distinct from the "Last Rites," or Viaticum, in which the Church offers Holy Communion as food for the journey to life eternal. 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.

If you are unable to join us at the Healing Mass and wish to receive the Sacraments, call the parish office at 715-824-3455 by Tuesday, March 29th. Father Dariusz our missionary will go to visit those parishioners. Please let others know of this powerful Healing Mass to receive the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.

BIBLE STUDY – We will be watching the ***PASSION OF CHRIST*** video. All are welcome to join us, on Monday March 28th, @ 5:30 pm. It's a movie based on Christ's determination to give his life for our sins. He is not a passive victim, taken by surprise and forced to endure a horrific death. He is the one who said to the Father, "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42), and he chose to drink to the last drop from the cup of his suffering, all for the sake of our salvation. St. John Paul II said, the passion of Christ is *"the culmination of the revelation of God's love."* Jesus wants our hearts. He wants to transform our hearts with this love. So, as we walk through Christ's passion, we will consider how we can live His example of love in our own daily lives.

DO YOU KNOW THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?
(continues)

10th – Jesus Is Stripped Of His Garments
The soldiers notice you have something of value. They remove your cloak and throw dice for it. Your wounds are torn open once again. Some of the people in the crowd make fun of you. They tease you and challenge you to perform a miracle for them to see. They're not aware that you'll perform the greatest miracle of all!

11th – Jesus Is Nailed To The Cross
You are stretched out on the cross you have carried so far. The soldiers take big nails and drive them into your hands and feet. You feel abandoned by the people you loved so much. People seem to have gone mad. You have done nothing but good, yet they drive nails through your hands and feet.

12th – Jesus Dies On The Cross
As Jesus hung on the cross, he forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for his mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so he gave all he had for us.

...Continue next week with 13th & 14th Stations.

2022 Parish Lenten Mission Schedule

St. James & St. Mary Mount Carmel Parishes

April 1st- April 4th, 2022

Friday, April 1

Healing Mass • 12:00PM at St. Mary

We will begin our Lenten Mission with the Mass of Healing. During this Mass, the Anointing of the Sick will be given to all who wish to receive the grace of healing.
The Mass of Healing will be concluded with the Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.
Homebound visits will begin around 2 P.M.
If you are unable to attend in person, please call the parish office at 715-824-3455 by Tuesday, March 29th.

Stations of the Cross • 2:00PM at St. Mary

Saturday, April 2

Confessions • 3:30PM at St. James

Mass • 4:00PM at St. James

Sunday, April 3

Mass • 8:30AM at St. James

Mass • 10:30AM at St. Mary Mount Carmel

Monday, April 4

Parish Reconciliation Service • 6:00PM at SJ

Jesus says to us: "Do not be afraid of anything. I am always with you. In me you will find relief for all anxieties and fears " Saint John Paul II

Our Parish Family

We welcome these children through the living waters of Baptism:

▷ Son of Adam & Amanda Onan
▷ Daughter of Justin & Melissa Blenker
▷ Son of Paul & Laura Przybelski
▷ Son of Jesse & Nicole Konkol
▷ Daughter of Gregg & Kelly Trudell

MARRAIGES

Congratulations to Jessica and Stephen Hodgkins on the celebration of the convalidation of their marriage

Continue to pray for the response of the souls of:

▷ Donald S. Meshak
▷ Randy Rzentkowski
▷ Lee Ryczek
▷ Gerri Konkol
▷ Bert E. Glodowski
▷ Jo Anne Favro

LENT 2022 – A TIME TO BE CHARITABLE

SJ/SMMC Social Concerns Update: Please remember in your Lenten almsgiving those in need. The ***Retirement Fund for Religious*** provides nursing care, medicines and other necessities to those priests, sisters and brothers who have dedicated their lives to the church and now need our help. The ***Catholic Campaign for Human Development*** is trying to break the cycle of poverty in United States. ***Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls*** are feeding hungry people in Guatemala, Rwanda and Bangladesh.

Please also remember the People of Ukraine. Thousands have been killed and millions of Ukrainians have fled their country. Many citizens that remain in Ukraine are living without heat, clean water and proper food. Your donations will be sent to Catholic Relief Services in Ukraine to provide for their immediate needs for survival. Donations for Ukraine can be placed in the milk cans at church. Checks should be made out to your Parish. Please also continue to pray for those at risk, and for an end to violence and war.

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 & Misty Prater

Sacred Worship: Judi Marquard & Barb Groholski

Social Concerns: Pat Zielinski and Laura Trzebiatowski - Przekurat

Education: TBA **Stewardship:** TBA

Your Homework from Fr. Jerzy

The subject of the sermon was the prodigal son. The preacher spoke with deep emotion of the unbelievable love of the Father. But what is strange about the father's love? There are thousands of human fathers (and possibly more mothers) who are capable of loving in a similar way.

In fact, the parable was addressed directly to the Pharisees: *"All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching him to listen to him. At this the Pharisees and scribes murmured: This one welcomes sinners and eats with them. He then told them the following parable ..."*

Malcontent!
Pharisee!
Older brother!

This is the purpose of the parable:

Once upon a time, God was walking in the heaven and was surprised to find that all the people were there. Not a single soul was sent to Hell. This worried him, because was he not obligated to himself to be fair? Moreover, why was hell created if it was not used? So, he said to Saint Peter:
Gather everyone in front of my throne and read the Ten Commandments to them.
The first commandment was read. God said:
Anyone who has sinned against this commandment is to be transferred to Hell immediately.
Some people broke away from the crowd and went to Hell in sadness. The same was done with the second commandment, with the third, with the fourth, with the fifth ...
Already then, the population of heaven declined considerably. When the sixth commandment was read, everyone went to hell except the hermit, fat, old, and bald.
God looked at him and said to Peter: Is this the only man left in heaven?
"Yes," Peter replied.
"That's not good," said God. "He's been left too much alone, don't you think?" Go tell everyone to come back.
When the fat, old and bald hermit heard that everyone had been forgiven, he grimaced and shouted to God:
- It's unfair!!! Why didn't you tell me this before?
Hmm...
I see! Another Pharisee! Another big brother! A man who believes in rewards and punishments, and who is a fanatic of the strictest of justice!

My Dear Brothers and sisters;

It is easier to see in others the corporal sin and the riotous life. It is easier to spot those who steal, cheat, lie, drink excessively, and stuff themselves with various substances. It is easier to spot those who do not go to church and do not care about morals. It is easier to see those who hurt, are vulgar, and hate others. It is much more difficult to locate in ourselves the attitude of the older son, sometimes less dangerous than the behavior of the younger son, but also a threat to salvation. It is masked by decency. Besides, the sense of self-righteousness is extremely subtle, unobtrusive to others. It comes out only in specific situations, in the form of anger and "holy indignation".

It is enough to read some comments on Catholic websites. There is a large group of "righteous" who, with extreme zeal, and sometimes even hatred, demand that the wrongdoers be punished, even if they convert. They want a reward for themselves, but also, if only secretly, a settlement of accounts for the sinners. They could not be happy in heaven if they knew that those who did evil do not burn in hell. They would then not have the feeling that they were in Paradise as a reward. And that would be a drama. They live a justice that only condemns and judges. They cannot bear to see God forgiving. They prefer the God of Sodom, Gomorrah, and the flood. But, unfortunately, to the displeasure of some, and luckily for all of us, Christ is the ultimate revelation of God. He does not send fire to people, he gives them a chance and lets them into heaven even at the last moment, if they only express a little trust and regret....

It is interesting that in the parable, both sons leave the house first. One goes to distant countries for many years. He wants to have fun and enjoy the illusory freedom. The other one goes to the field to work, so that his father will finally reward him for his faithfulness. In the second part, it is the father who leaves the house. First, he runs towards his younger son. Then he goes out to the elder. For years, I have been captivated by the fact that the father takes the initiative, builds bridges over the gaps that both sons have dug. Unfortunately, the second son, polite, does not allow his father to touch or hug him. We do not know if he will enter the house over the bridge that his father stretched out in front of him with the words: *"My child (...) everything is yours".*

What would you do?

Would you enter the house or would you stay outside?

Fr. Jerzy