



**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: [sjsmcc.weconnect.com](http://sjsmcc.weconnect.com)  
[myparishapp.com/download](http://myparishapp.com/download)**



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**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

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**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.*



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**Weekday Mass Intentions**

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 AM @ SJ  
.....Rose Yach  
Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 AM @ SMMC  
..... Erven Studinski  
Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 AM @ SMMC  
..... Deceased member of Anton & Agatha Konkol  
Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 AM @ SJ  
..... Megal Families

**Weekend Mass Intentions**

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM @ SMMC  
The Living & Deceased Members of the Loecher Family  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM @ SJ  
..... Harry and Jean Firkus  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM @ SMMC  
..... Parishioners of our Two Parishes

**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

The Christmas Season, also known as Christmastide, extends far longer than just the day of Christmas.

**HOLY FAMILY (12-31)** - The feast celebration Jesus, Mary and Joseph as the model for Christian families.

**MARY MOTHER OF GOD (1-1)** – This celebration venerates Mary as the mother of Jesus.

**EPIPHANY (1-7)** – The feast of the manifestation of Christ to the world.

**BAPTISM OF JESUS (1-8)** – This feast marks the end of Christmastide and celebrates the revelation of Jesus' divinity to the Jewish people.

By including the feast of the martyr Stephen, the massacred Holy Innocents, we realize that Christ's incarnation always includes not only acceptance but also rejection and persecution.

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**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 4:30-5:30 PM

**CONFESSION SCHEDULE:**

After weekday Masses at respective Church. Saturday at 3:30 PM at St. Mary of Mount Carmel.  
Sunday after 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary of Mount Carmel.  
*(Leave a note in Sacristy for Father before Mass if you wish to go to Confessions after Mass)*



## Christmas Mass Schedule:

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 pm at St. Mary

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
10pm at St. James

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day - 10 am St. James

## MASS OBLIGATIONS:

*Catholics are required to attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening) as well as Holy Days of Obligation. Thus, Attending Mass on Sunday Morning, December 24th fulfills the Sunday Obligation Only. To fulfill the Christmas obligation, you must attend a Christmas Mass.*



## Advent Homebound Visits

Are you or anyone in your household homebound?

If so, Father Jerzy will be scheduling visits  
**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

If you would like to receive the Grace of God during this beautiful season of Christmas, please call the office at **715-823-3455**

**You thought you knew everything about Advent. Try this:**

<https://catholictalkshow.com/7-things-you-didnt-know-about-advent/>



# Stewardship

*a way of living*

### St James

Week Ending December 3, 2023

Received \$3,550  
Budget \$3,430  
\$120

	Nov-23	Jul 2023 - Nov 2023	Jul 2022 - Nov 2022
Received	\$9,282	\$56,177	\$60,847
Budget	<u>\$14,578</u> (\$5,296)	<u>\$72,890</u> (\$16,713)	

### St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending December 3, 2023

Received \$5,036  
Budget \$3,564  
\$1,472

	Nov-23	Jul 2023 - Nov 2023	Jul 2022 - Nov 2022
Received	\$13,483	\$70,726	\$65,397
Budget	<u>\$15,148</u> (\$1,665)	<u>\$75,740</u> (\$5,014)	

## Support Scrip Gift Cards

### SMMC SCRIP UPDATE:

Gift cards will be on sale the weekend, of December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Are you considering giving gift cards as Christmas presents? Please place your orders to ensure delivery on time. Call Pat Zielinski at 715-824-3762 if you have questions or to place an order.

*Thanks for your support!*

### ST. JAMES SCRIP CARDS:

Script Gift Cards will be on sale every Sunday leading up to Christmas. To purchase Scrip, stop by the parish office during office hours or contact **Hydie Laidlaw at 715-347-3544.**

# Parish News...



**ADVENT PARISH  
RECONCILIATION**  
December 19 - 6:00pm - St. James

## **COFFEE AND DONUTS:**

Thank you to all those that help make coffee and donuts possible the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to host contact Misty Prater at [mistyprater@gmail.com](mailto:mistyprater@gmail.com) or 785-633-5206 (call/text) or sign-up in the back of St. James.

We have easy to follow instructions and I am always available if you have questions. We are looking for volunteers for January 7<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JAMES:**

Join us at St. James on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30, to view and discuss Lesson ten, "BRIDES and BRIDEGROOMS". All are welcome. Feel free to go to [stpaulcenter.com](http://stpaulcenter.com) and log in with: [sismevangelization@gmail.com](mailto:sismevangelization@gmail.com) – then enter password: WeBelieve - Under Bible Studies click onto Video Studies where you will find The Bible and the Sacraments' and various other Bible Studies.

## **SACRED WORSHIP ADVENT TREE:**

Please check out the Sacred Worship Advent Tree in the back of the church at St. Mary and the Gathering Space at St. James and take an ornament each week during Advent to help you grow in faith this Advent. On the backside of each ornament, you will find a *Spiritual Exercise* to help you have a most Blessed Advent Season!

## **ADORATION NEW YEAR'S EVE:**

Make plans to attend Adoration at St. Mary's on Sunday, Dec 31 to **Ring in the New Year with Jesus and Mary**. Adoration will begin at 7:00 pm on December 31<sup>st</sup> and end with Benediction on January 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 am. Sign-up sheets are available at the entryways. We need 3 people per hour during the Adoration. Come and spend quality time with Jesus as 2023 comes to an end and the New Year arrives.

*What a beautiful way to ring in the New Year!!*

## **DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS AT ST.**

**MARY'S:** We plan to decorate St. Mary's after the 10:30 Mass on December 17. We welcome families to stay after to help bring out all the decorations and help decorate. Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Having extra hands to help will make the job easier.

## **SJ-SMMC SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

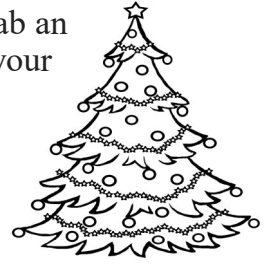
Will be sponsoring

# **HOLIDAY BASKETS**

for two families this year. One each for St James and St Mary parishes. Please grab an ornament or two from a tree at your respective parish and return the items unwrapped.

All items need to be donated by December 17th.

Thank you for your generosity!



# **"DID YOU KNOW"**

## **from the Sacred Worship Committee**

DID YOU KNOW? From the Sacred Worship Committee I think most of us understand that the season of Advent is the time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also a period of mindfulness for the 2nd coming of Christ. What is your PURPOSE for this season? Is your soul prepared to receive Jesus? Is your spiritual house in order? Perhaps you could focus on gratitude towards God at this time. Perhaps your purpose will be contemplative prayer or giving to others. Consider using your gifts of the Holy Spirit, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control to assist you in your readiness. Allow your purpose during Advent to transform you. In the Gospel reading on December 5th, Jesus expressed his gratitude towards his Father. Then... Turning to the disciples in private he said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it." Luke 10:22 How privileged are we to know that Christ came at that time and in that place over 2000 years ago. The Jewish people longed for the coming of our Messiah. How privileged are we to be able to then read of His life in the New Testament. We are blessed. In closing, a beautiful quote from Saint Mother Teresa: "Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern".

**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.

**ANNOINTING 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 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

*Upcoming...*

**BASKET RAFFLE STARTING JANARY 6, 2024!!!** St. Ladislaus Parish, Hatley.

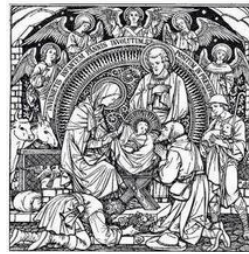
We have some great baskets. Tickets will be \$1 each or 7-\$5. Drawing will be at our Green & Gold Evening of Fun on February 10, 2024.

The evening includes FREE drinks, FREE finger foods, FREE cheese and sausage, FREE Dessert Bars, FREE Door Prizes. We will have our drawing for our Green & Gold Raffle, Basket Raffle, 50/25/25 Raffle! Last year we had a full house. All ages welcome. Save the Date!

For more information: 715-446-3060

**STOCKING STUFFER IDEA**

Give a Green & Gold Raffle Ticket as a gift. Anyone would love any of the great 16 prizes! 4 tickets for \$10 and you are supporting St. Ladislaus. 715-446-3060



# St. Andrew's Christmas Novena

“Hail, Blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin, in the stable, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

At that hour, vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayers & grant my desire through Jesus Christ, & His most Blessed Mother. *Amen*

*(Pray 15 times each day, Nov. 30 until Dec. 24)*

## Parish Staff

**Office:**

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

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

**Parish Life Administrator:**

Ann Hemmy  
sjsmparishlife@gmail.com

**Bookkeeper:**

Sandy Trzebiatowski  
sjsmbkkpr@gmail.com

**DRE:**

Michelle Shulfer  
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

**Pastoral Council**

Cindi Borski SM  
Justen Pacocha SM  
Barb Gutschow SM  
Judy Zinda 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 and Co-chairs**

**Family Life:** Laura Gould

**Sacred Worship:** Judi Marquard & Barb Groholski

**Social Concerns:** Pat Zielinski and

Laura Trzebiatowski-Przekurat