



## 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: [sjsmcc.weconnect.com](http://sjsmcc.weconnect.com)



**Fr. Jerzy Rebacz; Pastor | Deacon Art Schaller**

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### January 11, 2026

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#### 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.

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#### Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

**Tuesday, January 13th** 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Mary Jicinsky

**Wednesday, January 14th** 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Theresa Kitowski

**Thursday, January 15th** 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Betty Wanta Thompson

**Friday, January 16th** 8:15AM @ SJ  
+John & Betty Kowalski

**Saturday, January 17th** 4:00PM @ SJ  
+Edna Groshek

**Sunday, January 18th**  
8:30 AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes  
10:30AM @ SJ +Ray Patoka



Almighty, eternal God,  
when the Spirit descended  
upon Jesus  
at His baptism in the Jordan,  
You revealed Him as  
Your own beloved Son.  
Keep us, your children  
born of water and the Spirit  
faithful to our calling,  
listening to you,  
guided by Your Spirit,  
to fulfil our unique purpose.  
We ask this through  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, your  
Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

#### Adoration Schedule

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

#### Confession Schedule

After weekday Masses and Saturday at 3:30 PM at St. James.  
Sunday after 10:30 AM Mass at St. James.

**Thank You to ALL** for your Christmas greetings and generosity. We are truly blessed to belong to the parish families of St. James and St. Mary of Mount Carmel!

May the Christ Child fill you with grace and blessings throughout the New Year!

In the Love and Service of Christ,

*Deacon Art & Kathy Schaller*



## Faith Step

The Baptism of the Lord  
January 11th

John said to Jesus. "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" (Matthew 3:14)

Jesus stood with sinners like us along the banks of the Jordan and descended into the waters, just as they had.

Then, on the cross, he took on every one of our sins and put them to death, once and for all.

Through this great sacrament, you were joined to Jesus in his death and resurrection. You were freed from the burden of guilt that Jesus loaded on his own shoulders. You were cleansed of sin and made righteous.

Today, then, is a day to thank the Lord for your own Baptism and the new life you received.

Just as the Father said to Jesus, so he says to you: "You are my beloved child". (Matthew 3:17)

**Jesus came to be baptized.**  
(Matthew 3:13)



**Contribution Statements.** Your 2025 Annual Contribution Statements will be mailed to your homes this week. Again, Fr. Jerzy and your Finance and Pastoral Councils thank you sincerely not only for your financial gifts, but for all the countless volunteer hours donated on a regular basis in support of our liturgy celebrations, religious education, fundraising activities, and parish events. Your generosity and kindness do not go unnoticed and are so greatly appreciated. Our parishes are truly blessed with wonderful people!

## St James

Week Ending January 4, 2026



Received \$6,725  
Budget \$3,462  
\$3,263

	Month of Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2024
Received	\$17,578	\$95,314	\$79,577
Budget	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$90,000</u>	
	\$2,578	\$5,314	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (1/8/26)

Goal: \$27,490 Pledged to Date: \$17,840 (65%)  
# Families who have Contributed: 37

## St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending January 4, 2026

Received \$3,155  
Budget \$3,923  
(\$769)

	Month of Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2025	Fiscal YTD Dec 2024
Received	\$31,912	\$99,694	\$107,942
Budget	<u>\$17,000</u>	<u>\$102,000</u>	
	\$14,912	(\$2,306)	



2025-2026 Annual Appeal Status (1/8/26)

Goal: \$34,930 Pledged to Date: \$12,245 (35%)  
# Families who have Contributed: 50

## Scrip Gift Cards

### SMMC Scrip Update

Our next gift card sales will be on January 17th and 18th, and on February 1st. Cards can be purchased at any time by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

### St. James Scrip Update

Contact Hydie Laidlaw at (715) 347-3544 or stop by the parish office to purchase cards during the week.

Money earned from our scrip sales is used to reduce our monthly Pacelli Catholic Schools assessment for each parish.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

**Our sincere sympathy** is extended to the family and friends of +Paul Groshek. Paul passed away on December 31st and his funeral Mass was held at St. James this past Friday. Let us remember to pray for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers for his friends and family members who mourn his loss.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen



### Have you picked up your 2026 calendar yet?

2026 calendars, courtesy of the Jungers-Holly Funeral Home, are available at the entryways. A huge thank you to Jungers-Holly for having these printed for our two parishes.



**Please join us** at 5:30pm on Mondays, starting this Monday January 12th, at St. James for Faith Formation! We will be doing the *"Great Adventure Bible Study of Matthew-The King and His Kingdom"* with Jeff Cavins. Busy schedule? Don't worry! You do not need to attend all sessions. Please drop in when you can!

### A new parish website is coming your way!

Effective this Thursday, January 15th LPI will no longer be hosting our website. We are currently working on a new, updated website—which will also include a new domain name. Be sure to check out next weekend's bulletin for all the details! If you try to access our current [sjsmcc.weconnect.com](http://sjsmcc.weconnect.com) website after Thursday, you will most likely encounter an error.

**I'm Lost!** Check out the 'Lost and Found' basket located at the gathering space entryway. There are several items that have been left behind.



**Mass Offerings.** The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition.

One of the greatest things we can do for those we love is offer the sacrifice of Mass.

There are still many remaining dates in 2026.

If you would like to schedule a Mass, please call the parish office (715) 824-3455, stop in Tuesday through Thursday, or email [catholiccentral54406@gmail.com](mailto:catholiccentral54406@gmail.com). (If emailing, please include any special date requests you might have.)

The suggested Mass offering is \$20—which gets passed along to the priest.

### Did you Know?

From Our Sacred Worship Committee

There are over 2,000 Catholic Newman Centers that serve students across the country. Many students find a home away from home at these centers as they continue to practice their faith.

The Newman Center at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point sponsored young people at the SEEK conference held the first week of January in Columbus, Ohio. This conference is supported by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).

SEEK is a five-day experience where thousands of Catholics come together to encounter Christ through prayer, Adoration, the sacraments, and inspiring speakers.

A record number of over 26,000 people attended the conference held in Columbus, Denver and Fort Worth. This was an increase of 24% over last year! I know of three young adults from our parish who attended.

SEEK is one of the largest Catholic conferences in the world featuring transformative talks from renowned speakers. The bishop from Columbus noted, *"When these young people return to their campuses and communities, they go back on fire with the faith."*



To learn more about FOCUS or the SEEK conference, see the [website focus.org](http://website.focus.org) or [seek.focus.org](http://seek.focus.org). You can also watch some of the content for free at [seek.replay.com](http://seek.replay.com).

**It has been a tradition** in the Catholic Church to bless chalk and to have families take it home to write symbols above doorways, inviting Christ's blessing and protection for the home and its occupants throughout the year.

The inscription usually looks like 20+C+M+B+26, representing the year (2026), crosses (holy protection), and the letters C, M, B for Christus Mansionem Benedicat (Latin for "May Christ bless this house") or the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar).

Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ.

Chalk with the Home Blessing Prayers are available by the Nativity Scene and at the entryways.



"Kind words can be short and easy to speak,  
but their echoes are truly endless."  
~Saint Mother Teresa

**St. Mary-Torun Ponczka Sale.** Place your order today by calling (715) 344-9665 or emailing [ponczka@toruncatholic.org](mailto:ponczka@toruncatholic.org). Cost per dozen \$14. Choices: Unfilled, Raspberry Jelly, or Prune. Pickup Jan 24th. Between 3 & 6pm.

**The St. Peter Parish Family Life Soup and Pie Sale event** will be held on Saturday, January 24th from 2-5:30 pm and on Sunday, January 25th from 7:30 am until Noon or until items are sold out. This event will be held in the Faustina Room located at St. Peter Church, 800 Fourth Avenue in Stevens Point. Soups: Chicken Noodle, Ham & Bean, Swiss Broccoli, Vegetable Beef Barley. \$10/quart. Assorted variety of homemade pies—all delicious! Prices vary.

**Breakfast at the Knights of Columbus:** Our first breakfast of 2026 - Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, serving from 8:15 am to 11 am. Scrambled Eggs, Fried Red Potatoes, ham, sausage, dessert and all you care to eat pancakes for only \$10 adult, \$6 for ages 6-12 and \$4 for under 6 price includes coffee and sales tax. Our popular bake & craft sale ( Barbie /American clothes) will be held at the breakfast. For those that have issues with stairs, we have a chairlift at the West entrance. Knights of Columbus Clubhouse 401 W Clark St, just across the Clark St Bridge in Stevens Point Open to the public.

**Women's Book Club at Sacred Heart in Polonia.** We meet every 1st and 3rd Monday evening at 7:15 in the Sacred Heart Church basement. We are beginning a new book, *Theology for Beginners* by Frank Sheed. Come even if you can't get the book before the meeting. Call or text Kim Andrich with any questions: (715) 570-5923.

**Ponczka Dance,** February 7th. St. Michael, Junction City. Join us 6pm to 10m with a \$5 cover at the door ages 12 & under are free. Featuring the Ultimate Polka Band with alternating DJ throughout the evening. Ponczka's on sale to eat in or take with.



#### 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.

#### 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 office.

#### United Prayers to Heaven Prayer Chain

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](mailto:plhintz5@gmail.com)  
Darlene.....(715) 592-4443  
Barb.....(715) 824-3649

#### Parish Staff

##### Office

Veronica Bruske .....(715) 824-3455  
[catholiccentral54406@gmail.com](mailto:catholiccentral54406@gmail.com)

Please send your ambo announcements into the office via email by 4:30pm Tuesday.

##### Parish Life Administrator

Ann Hemmy.....[sjsmparishlife@gmail.com](mailto:sjsmparishlife@gmail.com)

##### DRE

Michelle Shulfer.....[sjsmdre@gmail.com](mailto:sjsmdre@gmail.com)

##### Bulletin.....[bulletininfo06@gmail.com](mailto:bulletininfo06@gmail.com)

Please send your bulletin requests via email by 4:30pm Tuesday.

#### 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  
Sandy Trzebiatowski SJ  
Pat Kwiatkowski SJ

##### Committees Chairperson and Co-chairs

**Family Life**....Laura Gould

**Sacred Worship**....Judi Marquard | Barb Groholski

**Social Concerns**... Pat Zielinski | Laura Trzebiatowski-Przekurat