



# 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

## January 4, 2026

### 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.

### Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, January 6th 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Meridy Strack

Wednesday, January 7th 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Norman Greeb

Thursday, January 8th 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Michael & Emily Wierba

Friday, January 9th 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Art & Lucy Wysocki

Saturday, January 10th 4:00PM @ SJ  
+Patricia Somers

Sunday, January 11th  
8:30 AM @ SJ +Judy Olds  
10:30AM @ SJ Parishioners of our Two Parishes

Praying the love of God  
Will fill you with joy,  
The peace of God  
Will fill you with hope,  
And the grace of God  
Will surround you with  
Reminders of His presence  
this Christmas Season



### 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.

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your kindness and generosity during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Thank you for your many warm wishes, beautiful cards, gifts, baked goods, and most importantly the assurance of your prayers.

I am truly humbled and grateful for your expressions of love and gratitude. I pray the Lord will bless you abundantly with His graces during this New Year.

Thank you also for your participation in our Christmas Masses and for your tremendous generosity of gifts to our Christmas holiday trees and baskets. Your love, devotion, and sacrifice to Saint James and to St. Mary of Mount Carmel reflects your appreciation for the gift of our Catholic faith and of our parish families.

May the Lord bless you this New Year with health, happiness and most of all holiness of life!

*Fr. Jerzy*

*Fr. Jerzy*



**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.**  
The Mother of the Church reigns in Heaven next to her Son; to nurture the Church as a loving mother. She intercedes for us and also mediates her Son's saving grace, making her the ongoing instrument of grace and mother of all.

On the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1st), Catholics pray for Mary's intercession to grow in faith, hope, and love, asking her to help them live like her—pondering God's mysteries, trusting His will, and bringing Jesus to the world,

#### Prayer for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Heavenly Father,

You blessed the Virgin Mary  
with the fullness of grace.

She is my model of faith, hope, and love.  
I give this New Year to her intercession  
and ask for her holy prayers.

Place my needs into the protection  
of her motherly love.

With her help, I want my faith to grow.  
Give me an increase in the virtue of hope  
when troubles tempt me to despair.

Guide me in understanding Your infinite love.

And join my heart, dear Lord,  
to the Holy Mother's Immaculate Heart,  
so that I may improve  
in loving everyone unconditionally,  
in imitation of my Savior, Jesus.

**Amen**

#### St James

Week Ending December 28, 2025

Received	\$8,733
Budget	<u>\$3,462</u>
	\$5,271

	Month of Nov 2025	Current Fiscal YTD Nov 2025	Prior Fiscal YTD Nov 2024
Received	\$14,385	\$73,481	\$62,038
Budget	<u>\$15,000</u> (\$615)	<u>\$75,000</u> (\$1,519)	

#### St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending December 28, 2025

Received	\$14,995
Budget	<u>\$3,923</u>
	\$11,072

	Month of Nov 2025	Current Fiscal YTD Nov 2025	Prior Fiscal YTD Nov 2024
Received	\$15,955	\$67,447	\$68,516
Budget	<u>\$17,000</u> (\$1,045)	<u>\$85,000</u> (\$17,553)	

**Contribution Statements.** Your 2025 Annual Contribution Statements will be mailed to your home within the next couple of weeks. 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.

May God bless you all!



#### Scrip Gift Cards

##### SMMC Scrip Update

Scrip cards are on sale this weekend! Our next sales will be at the 4:00 Mass on January 17th and the 10:30 Mass on Jan 18th. Cards can be purchased at any time by calling Pat Zielinski a (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.

**Thank you for your support!**



## 20+C+M+B+26

**The feast day of Epiphany** celebrates the coming of the Three Kings, who came from the East, bearing gifts for the New Born Christ Child. 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. Pick up a packet to continue this Blessing tradition in your home.

### Coffee and Doughnuts are being served this weekend!

If you would like to host a first Sunday coffee and doughnut social after the 8:30am Mass this winter or spring, please contact Misty Prater at (785) 633-5206 or [mistyrater@gmail.com](mailto:mistyrater@gmail.com). We have easy to follow instructions and Misty is always available if questions arise. It's a great way for a couple or a family to volunteer together!



### Available for all parishioners! *The Fountain of Youth–Confession: The Only Key to Living Forever.*

The book, 'The Fountain of Youth' by Dave Durand will be available for all parishioners this New Years. Fr. Mike Schmitz tells us, "Dave Durand has written a book on Confession that needs to be read. So many people have objections to going to Confession. With clarity and winsomeness, Dave has wisely and gently broken down the walls that keep people from the forgiveness God wants each person to experience".

Make a New Year's resolution to go to Confession often. Read this book to help you understand God's love and mercy each time we confess our sins.

**A Winter Reminder....**Yes, winter is here whether we like it or not! A reminder that if the Tomorrow River Schools close due to inclement weather or poor road conditions, our parishes will also be closed. There will be no Mass on those days, and the parish office will be closed. Please be safe and always use caution when traveling during the winter season, and please be extra careful on sidewalks and parking lots. We try to keep our parking lot and sidewalks sanded or free from ice as best we can, but it can be difficult - especially if the weather is extremely cold. Please look out for those icy spots while walking and if you can, offer an arm to someone for assistance if you see they may need it.

### Did you Know?

From Our Sacred Worship Committee

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, aka Three Kings Day.



Epiphany 2026 is a time to celebrate Christ's revelation to the world. This feast invites all to reflect on the light of Christ shining in their lives. The word epiphany is based on the Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "revelation".

Since the beginning of the liturgical year in 1969, Catholics in the United States have celebrated this feast day on the first Sunday following Jan1st. It generally lasts for seven days.

Traditionally, the following events from Jesus' life are connected to this feast: the visit of the three Magi, the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan and Jesus' first miracle at Cana. During each of these events, we are presented with divine revelation.

The Feast of the Epiphany was instituted in the fourth-century to underscore the universal nature of Christ's mission. We are celebrating God's vision of salvation for all of us in this world, through the gift of his son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Epiphany of the Lord calls Christians to reflect on the gifts given to Jesus.

\* **Gold** symbolizes royalty.

\* **Frankincense** is used in the worship of God, symbolizing his divinity.

\* **Myrrh** is a burial ointment pointing to our redemption in Jesus' Passion and death.

There are no small details in the Gospels, everything means something.

As Mary pondered many things, let us ponder the words of scripture with reverence and humility. Take time to read and reread these words inspired by the Holy Spirit.



## Faith Step

How can we rediscover the beautiful humanity of the saints in 2026?

One of the incredible gifts the saints give us as we encounter the many experiences of life is the breadth and depth of their own collective experiences. Everything you will ever experience has been experienced by a saint. **Everything**.

But the greatest legacy of the saints is that they have not left us to discover the keys to the good life on our own or from scratch. Physically, emotionally, intellectually, and especially spiritually, the saints have gone ahead and mapped the path to deeper fulfillment and happiness for us. They offer you the most essential wisdom you will need for your own journey. Read '*The WISDOM of the SAINT*' by Matthew Kelly and be the saint God has planned for you.

**"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."** - St Catherine of Siena

**"Live simply so that others may simply live."** -St Elizabeth Ann Seton

**"Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach & your actions speak."** - St Anthony of Padua

**"A word or a smile is often enough to put fresh life in a despondent soul."** - St Therese of Lisieux



## Area Events

**St. Wenceslaus PCCW Drive Thru Soup Sale** serving from 2 to 4pm. Saturday, January 10th. \$8/quart with dinner rolls. Soup options include: Chicken with Homemade Noodles, Potato and Sausage, Italian Meat Ball, and Beef Barley.

**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.



### 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