



## 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; Pastor**  
**Deacon Art Schaller**

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**  
**8:30AM—1:00PM**

**Parish Website: [sjsmmcc.weconnect.com](http://sjsmmcc.weconnect.com)**



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## November 30, 2025

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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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### Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

**Tuesday, December 2nd** 8:15AM @ St. SJ  
+Don & Hazel Shulfer

**Wednesday, December 3rd** 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Andy Kurszewski

**Thursday, December 4th** 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Don Dombrowski

**Friday, December 5th** 8:15AM @ SJ  
+Dianne Marquard

**Saturday, December 6th** 4:00PM @ SJ  
+Marge Iwanski

**Sunday, December 7th**  
8:30 AM @ SJ For the Special Intentions of  
Tina Maves and Sandy Trzebiatowski,  
in Thanksgiving for their service to our parishes  
10:30AM @ SJ +Stephen Hodgkins

### St. Andrew's Christmas Novena



A popular tradition is a Christmas novena that begins on  
St. Andrew's feast day (November 30th)

It is a simple and beautiful Advent prayer of preparation and petition  
by opening our hearts to both seek and to receive the Christ Child,  
and the salvation He brings on that cold, silent night, while asking  
God, with humble confidence, to grant our deepest longings.

It is traditionally prayed 15 times every day, though not necessarily all  
at once. Pray the following prayer from November 30th to December  
24th

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son  
of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary,  
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.  
In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear  
my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of  
Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.  
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.

## St. Mary Renovation Update

Progress continues!

The walls of the sacristies and the St. Joseph Room have been painted.

The committee members recently had the opportunity to speak with the painters and make their way through the maze of scaffolding to see the prep work being done and the completed painted walls of the sacristies.

Next week work should begin on the ceiling and the upper walls in the nave of the church.



Please keep the project in your prayers that all continues to go smoothly.

Another large payment was made this past week with another due at the end of December. Thank you to all who have donated to the restoration. Please keep your pledge payments coming.

### **St James**

**Week Ending November 23, 2025**

**Received** \$1,944  
**Budget** \$3,462  
 (\$1,518)

	Month of Oct 2025	Current Fiscal YTD Oct 2025	Prior Fiscal YTD Oct 2024
<b>Received</b>	\$15,315	\$59,096	\$50,281
<b>Budget</b>	<u>\$15,000</u> \$315	<u>\$60,000</u> (\$904)	

### **St Mary of Mount Carmel**

**Week Ending November 23, 2025**

**Received** \$2,445  
**Budget** \$3,923  
 (\$1,478)

	Month of Oct 2025	Current Fiscal YTD Oct 2025	Prior Fiscal YTD Oct 2024
<b>Received</b>	\$11,976	\$51,792	\$57,909
<b>Budget</b>	<u>\$17,000</u> (\$5,024)	<u>\$68,000</u> (\$16,208)	



### **Scrip Gift Cards**

There's still time to purchase your gift cards before Christmas!

### **SMMC Scrip Update**

St Mary will be selling scrip:

- \*Sunday, Dec 7th (10:30am Mass)
- \*Saturday, Dec 20th (4:00pm Mass)
- \*Sunday, Dec 21st (10:30am Mass)

If you are planning on a large Christmas order, please call Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762 by this Monday, December 1st, to ensure your cards will be received by Christmas.

### **St. James Scrip Update**


St James will be selling scrip:

- \*Sunday, Nov 30th (8:30am Mass)
- \*Saturday, Dec 6th (4:00pm Mass)
- \*Sunday, Dec 7th (8:30am Mass)

Special orders for Christmas gift cards should be placed early. Cards available for special order through Pacelli are listed on the back of the St. James order form. Contact Hydye Laidlaw at (715) 347-3544 with any questions.

**Thank you for your support!**



 **Thank you** Please gather next Sunday, December 7th after the 8:30am Mass to thank Tina Maves and Sandy Trzebiatowski for their years of service in the parish office and wish them well in retirement! Additionally, we want to warmly welcome Veronica Bruske who will continue their good work.

**Our monthly Coffee & Donut Social** will take place after the 8:30am Mass in the St. James gathering space this day as well! Everyone is welcome!



**Lighting of the Advent Wreath.** As we begin each Mass during Advent, parishioners will be invited to process up with Father and the servers to light the Advent Wreath candle. This is a beautiful tradition in our parishes. A special **Thank You** to the families who are participating in the lighting of the Advent wreath.



**It's time for Holiday Baskets again!** This year we will have two trees with ornaments—one for St. James and one for St. Mary, both located in the St. James gathering space. Please choose an ornament and return your unwrapped gift by December 14th. Thank you for your generosity in helping these families from Portage County who need our help.

**Advent Materials.** To help us prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child, Advent material, including “*The Little Blue Book*” for Advent and Christmas”, are available at the entryways. In addition, be sure to visit the Sacred Worship Advent Tree or Candy Cane Basket where you will find a spiritual exercise attached to each ornament or candy cane. Take an ornament or candy cane each week during Advent to help you in your faith journey.

May you have a Blessed Advent Season!



**Faith in Action for Advent!** This advent as a parish family, we invite you to do acts of kindness, offer prayers/small sacrifices for others, or give alms. For each action, we invite you to place a piece of straw in the manger placed in front of the altar. Together, let's fill the manger with love in action for Jesus' coming!

**Are you, or someone you know, homebound?** If you would like a weekly bulletin, please contact the parish office. Also, Father Jerzy would once again like to visit his homebound parishioners this Advent season. Please contact the parish office to have your name placed on his list for a December visit.

## Did You Know?

From our Sacred Worship Committee



What is Advent  
Sunday, Nov 30, 2025 - Wednesday, Dec 24, 2025

The following is an edited version “What is Advent” taken from the USCCB website.

*“Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, “ad-venire” in Latin or “to come to”) is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.*

*The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.*

*From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36).*

*Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.”*

*“Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world.”*

- Pope Francis, Angelus, 2018

THANK YOU



**A huge THANK YOU** to The Tomorrow River BP Station in Amherst for their support of our aluminum can recycling program! Your support is so greatly appreciated!

Recently, Gary Rzentkowski took another load of aluminum cans to Weller's Salvage and returned with a check of \$598.40 for our parishes! May God bless you Gary for all of your hard work in managing the program for us!





## FAITH STEP

### **Advent asks: As we prepare to have our world touched by love, what are we willing to have opened?**

Do we believe in love enough to let it open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds? Do we believe enough to let love open us to the most vulnerable, marginalized child of God born into our midst? This is, after all, what love does. Love opens whatever it touches; eyes, hearts, hope, joy.

Write down this prompt and finish the sentence:

I expect Christmas to transform me in a way that opens my heart to \_\_\_\_\_.

*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

-Proverbs 11:25-

### **Are you Ready for the Catholic New Year?**

Advent begins this Sunday, November 30, which also marks the beginning of a New Liturgical Year for Catholics, aka "Catholic New Year". Each liturgical year we begin a new cycle of Mass readings, following one of three years, A, B, or C. In our new liturgical year, we'll be using Year A readings, focusing on the Gospel of Matthew.

As we begin our "Catholic New Year", let us remember that the Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighed down and distracted by the cares of this world. Advent is a time of preparation and prayer that our hearts may be ready for the full joy of Christ's coming.

How will you prepare your heart for the coming of Our Lord?



#### **Area Events**

**Light up for Christ, Crib Blessing** at Knights of Columbus Clubhouse: Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. Fr Jeffrey Hennes will bless the crib and will be joined by the Pacelli Band and Choir. Ceremony will last about 15-20 minutes followed by hot chocolate and snacks in the downstairs hall. Please join us at the KC Clubhouse, 401 W Clark St - just across the Clark St Bridge.

**35th Annual Cookie Walk Event.** Saturday, December 6th. St. Joseph Family Center (1709 Wyatt Ave, Stevens Point). 9-11am or until sold out. Featuring gift baskets, Christmas crafts, homemade cookies and chocolates.

**Dec. 6 – Take & Bake Chicken Pot Pie and Mini White Chocolate Pumpkin Cheesecake Sale** at St. Wenceslaus Parish (Milladore) from 2 to 4pm.

**St. Peter Parish Family Life** Presents their 22nd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 13th from 7:30 am - 10:30 am at Kolbe Hall - located in the lower level of St. Peter Church, 800 Fourth Avenue, Stevens Point. Cookies and Candy. \$10 per pound.

#### **Parish Staff**

##### **Office**

Veronica Bruske ....(715) 824-3455  
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

##### **DRE**

Michelle Shulfer.....sjsmdre@gmail.com

**Bulletin**..... 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  
Michelle Shulfer SJ  
Michael Juris 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