



St. James & St. Mary Mt. Carmel



8:15 am Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday Dec 18th 8:15 AM at SJ

Intentions of Michelle Shulfer

Wednesday Dec 19th 8:15 AM at SM

(Mary Fonti)

Thursday Dec 20th 8:15 AM at SM

(Harry & Alice Bushman)

Friday Dec 21st 8:15 AM at SJ

(Chris Lassa)

Weekend Dec 22nd & Dec 23th

Saturday Dec 22nd 5:00 PM at SM

(William Trzebiatowski)

Sunday Dec 23th 8:30 AM at SJ

(Virginia & Joseph Kwiatkowski)

Sunday Dec 23th 10:30 AM at SM

Parishioners of our two parishes

St James and St Mary Communal

Service: will be held Wednesday
Dec 19th, 2018 6:30 PM at St James

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Monday Dec 24th 4:00 PM at St Mary

Monday Dec 24th 7:00 PM at St James

Tuesday Dec 25th 8:30 AM at St James

Tuesday Dec 25th 10:30 AM at St Mary

Solemnity of Mary

Monday Dec 31st 5:00 PM at St Mary

Tuesday Jan 1st 9:00 AM at St James

Fr. Daniel Hackel, Pastor

Catholic Central Office

453 S. Main St., P.O. Box 280, Amherst 54406

Phone: 715-824-3455

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Tuesday–Friday

St. James/St. Mary website-sjsmmcc.weconnect.com

Senior Priest: Fr. Bob Pedretti

Amherst/Fancher:

Office Assistant: Karen Stuczynski 715-824-3455

catholiccentral54406@gmail.com

DRE/Parish Life Coordinator: Ann Hemmy 715-316-7056

sjsmdre.plc@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Yvette Shulfer

sjsmbkkpr@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor/Webmaster: Jane

**Send your bulletin info by Monday by midnight directly
to: bulletininfo06@gmail.com**

Confession Schedule

St. James Saturday 9:00 am

St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm-4:45 pm

Any time by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration:

St. James, after Mass on first Fridays of the month.

St Peter, Stevens Point every Wed starting at 8:00 AM to
8:00 AM Thurs

Pastoral Council

Borski, Cindi SM

Griggs, Lauren SJ

Juris, Michael SJ

Kwiatkowski, Randy SJ

Lea, Shawn SM

Lorsung, Pat SJ

Piesik, Steve SM

Prater, Jacob SJ

Shulfer, Michelle SJ

Spierings, Don SJ

Zinda, Judy SM

Finance Council

Doll, Mark SM

Patoka, Gilbert SM

Stratton, Sharon SJ

Stuczynski, Dave SM

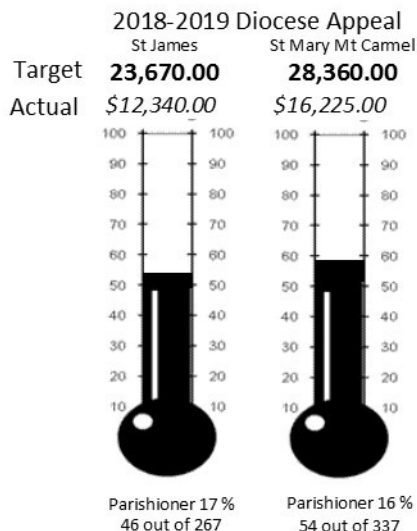
Trzebiatowski, Sandy SJ

**December 16, 2018
3rd Sunday of Advent**

3rd Sunday of Advent

In the same sentence where he reminds his listeners that he has cured the blind, the lame, the deaf, the sick, and even raised the dead, Jesus concludes by adding, "The poor have the good news proclaimed to them." How did that make the list of supernatural cures? What's so miraculous about good news? The poor are not just those in physical poverty, but those whose sins have impoverished their souls. This of course applies to us. The poverty of our own sinfulness can be overcome by the forgiveness offered to us in Christ. Because of this, we have cause to rejoice!

And on this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are encouraged to rejoice. Gaudete Sunday derives its name from the opening prayer of the Mass for this day, where we pray, "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). So in the midst of Advent fasting and devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand. We pause in this season of anticipation to remember that, in truth, our hopes have already been fulfilled. He is among us, saving us even now!



Financial Report

SJ Contributions

Total Contributions December 9, 2018

\$2,186.31 Total

\$1,426.00 Envelopes

\$180.31 Offertory

We Share On-Line Contributions \$580.00

SMMC Contributions

Total Contributions December 9, 2018

\$3,590.88 Total

\$3,187.00 Envelopes

\$333.88 Offertory

We Share On-Line Contributions \$70.00

Immaculate Conception Contributions

St. James Collection \$382.25

St. Mary Mt Carmel Collection \$130.00

St. James and St. Mary Cemeteries:

In consultation of the Finance Councils of both parishes the cost of cemetery plots for St. James and St. Mary parishioners will increase to \$500 on **Jan 1, 2019**.

SCRIP NEWS

SJ SCRIP Update:

Total sales: \$1,906; Total earned: \$84.45 Local: \$150. Cash & Carry \$10 sale coming the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 16! We will have an assortment of \$10 gift cards at all entrances. No paperwork, no hassles, no worries!

Gift cards available: Arby's (8%) Burger King (4%) Cousin's Subs (9%) Culver's (10%) Dairy Queen (5%) Noodles & Co. (20%) Panera Bread (9%) Papa Murphy's (8%) Polito's Pizza (10%) Starbuck's (7%) Subway (6%) Taco Bell (5%) Wooden Chair (20%)
Call ahead Special Order Cards: (Call Michelle at 715-592-4477). Barnes & Noble (8%) Bath & Body Works (13%) Big Apple Bagels (8%) Plover only Cold Stone (8%) Domino's Pizza (8%) Emy J's (10%) Erbert's & Gerberts (5%) Family Video (12%) Olympia Family Restaurant (10%) Rolling Hills Driving Range (10%).

SMMC SCRIP Update:

Gift cards on sale this weekend. Check next week's bulletin for the results. Our next sale will be January 5th and 6th. Thanks to everyone who placed "special Christmas gift card orders". Your support is greatly appreciated!

Parish News...

During this Advent season we are offering a special liturgy to the children ages 4-7 who attend the 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's. The children are called forward immediately before the First Reading and escorted to the St. James room where they listen to the Gospel & discuss its meaning in terms they understand. An activity sheet is also used. The children return to their seats in church when the collection starts. Its a wonderful way to do something extra to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Grief Share support group has finished the fall session and will resume in the spring. If you or someone you know is struggling with the death of a loved one, please consider attending in the spring. Please watch the bulletin for dates. If you have an urgent need please call Shawn @ 715-824-2300 or Cindi Borski 715-570-0755.

WE NEED YOUR HELP Our Sign-up sheets for Greeters, Rosary Leaders & Monthly Socials, have been updated & are ready for **YOU** to sign up to help here at SMMC. We encourage those who have helped in the past to consider signing up again. We welcome new individuals & families to sign up in these ministries. This is a great way to take an active role in your parish & a good way to meet other parishioners. If you have questions, call Julie @ 715-340-0004 for Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters) Barb @ 715-824-3649 for leading the Rosary or organizing our Monthly Socials.

Social Concerns Committee-St. Mary and Saint James
Thank you for the very positive response to the request for volunteers to help those in need of housework, chores, outside work, socializing, driving, shopping, etc. We are blessed to have so many generous and talented people in our two parishes willing to help out! We will soon be calling each of you to match you up with a person in need. Stage 2 of our project will involve getting word out to those in our parish community who may need a little extra help. If you wrote that you would like to join the Social Concerns Committee, we will be contacting you about our next meeting in January. Questions can be directed to Cindi at 715-570-0755.

SMMC & SJ are looking for money counters to help for about an hour or so on Tuesday mornings. Counters are placed in groups of three & are scheduled to count every fifth week. If interested in joining the teams, call Barb at 715-824-3649, Carol Teschner 715-824-6481 or Tina Maves 715-341-6169. Thank you to all who have helped in the past and to those who continue to help. May God bless you.

Praying Book Club Have you ever compared the Beatitudes in the Gospels of Matthew & Luke? Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. CAP highlights subtle differences with significant meaning. Matthew says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" where Luke says, "Blessed are you poor." Matthew's "poor in spirit" points to an interior attitude more than the social aspect emphasized by Luke. What Jesus has in mind by proclaiming the poor "blessed" is that these people have a better readiness to believe. They are not self-sufficient, they do not have a closed attitude, & they don't believe they can save themselves. They fully depend on God with great faith. Jesus exemplified perfect poverty by choosing to live poorly & be poor with no earthly possessions, he accepted scarcity, hunger, thirst, cold, hard work, austerity, and hardship. Most importantly, he accepted God's will and was stripped of his divine nature. He became a servant out of love for us. A precious gift indeed! The question that remains is, are you poor in spirit?

ATTENTION EMHC & THOSE INTERESTED IN JOINING: If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at SM or SJ, please notify the office or call Barb @ 824-3649. We plan to have a training session for current EMHC & new folks joining this ministry. More info on date & time will follow.

SMMC Are you missing a bowl or cake pan? Please look over the items on the 3 tiered cart in the main Church entryway. Many things are not marked so if it belongs to you, please take it home.

NEW Hymnals at SMMC do not fit properly in the pew book holders. We ask that you leave the books stacked up in each pew after Mass. With proper care, the new, hard cover books will be used here for the next 10-15 years.

Diocesan News...

*Jesus is
the reason
for the
season*

Begin the New Year with Emotionally Mature Children

Do your children test your resolve with their emotional immaturity? Do you need some suggestions on how to moderate the drama in your family? Then plan to attend the Raise Them Well Webinar on emotional maturity, January 7th at 7PM. You can be part of this webinar from the comfort of your own home. Just register and watch the entire presentation on your computer or smartphone. Cost \$5. Register at diolc.org/marriage/webinars/

Applications are now open for a new class of men and women who wish to serve as Leaders of Prayer for the Diocese of La Crosse. This is a three-part course of study by which lay persons are prepared and commissioned to serve their parishes by bringing Holy Communion to the sick; conducting a Liturgy of the Word, possibly with distribution of Communion, on weekdays when a priest is unavailable (or on Sunday in an emergency, or in care facilities or jails); and by leading parishioners in prayer at times of illness or death. Applicants must have completed the Lay Formation Institute and be sponsored by their pastor. For more information and to apply, visit www.diolc.org/ministries and click on "Leader of Prayer."

Faith Formation...

Schedule:

Grades 1 – 5 for both St. James and St. Mary students: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at St. James

Grades 6 – 11 for both St. James and St. Mary students: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at St. James

1st Reconciliation:

Congratulations to St. James and St. Mary 2nd grade students that made their 1st Reconciliation on Saturday, December 15th. Please continue to pray for our 2nd graders as they prepare for their First Communion.

CCD Reminders:

December 19th – January 2nd – No Classes Christmas Break

January 9th – Classes Resume

A Little Something For the Parishioners:

Are you interested in passing on our Catholic Devotionals and/or sharing your faith experiences to our youth? Examples include: Adoration, Benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet, All Souls Day, Stations of the Cross, Triduum, etc. Please consider instructing our middle school students from 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at St. James. You may come forward as an individual parishioner or as a team of parishioners who would like to present a given devotion and give witness to your faith life.

Dates: Dec. 12th, Jan. 9th, Jan. 16th, Jan. 23rd, Jan. 30th, Feb. 6th, Feb. 13th, Feb. 20th, Feb. 27th, Mar. 13th, Apr. 3rd, Apr. 10th.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ann Hemmy (715) 316-7056. Please know all are welcome to attend that have a desire to learn more and practice these beautiful devotions.

Advent Children's Liturgy of the Word

Beginning the First Sunday of Advent, December 2nd through the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23rd children ages 4 to 7 from St. James and St. Mary parishes are invited to participate in the Advent Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Mary. The children do not have to be signed up or attend from week one to participate.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation will be starting up Saturday's after the 5:00 pm Mass at St. Mary's church basement. We will be having horderves at our gathering. Bring an appetizer to pass and your hunger to learn more about your faith.

Upcoming EVENTS

Books and Shelving Offered The Deanery is vacating a storage site for its former library. This month you can provide your parish or personal library a Christmas gift. Come to St. Clare Center in Polonia, Saturday, December 15th or 22nd, 9:00-11:00 am, to pick up loads of Catholic books and other educational material. For more information, please call Leo Jacoby at 715-341-2790 or email him at wisdom@wctc.net.

Reconciliation/Confessions at Franciscans Downtown Fr. Placid Stroik, OFM is available to hear confessions at *Franciscans Downtown*, 1000 Main Street, Stevens Point **Thurs, Dec. 20th**, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Mini-retreat for Couples: Jan. 12 at St. John's - A short, powerful retreat called **GIVEN** is being offered for couples who are married, dating, and engaged. You will CELEBRATE marriage with other couples through engaging talks, lively music, adoration, prayer & reconciliation. Time: 9:30am-2:30pm; Cost: \$25 for Engaged Couples & 40 for Married or Dating Couples; Babysitting is available; RSVP needed. To sign up, go to: <http://diolc.org/marriage/marriage-enrichment/>

Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Lyon & Paris with hosts Bob Dolan and Bishop William Callahan Please join me on a nine-day pilgrimage to Lourdes, Lyon and Paris. On this all-inclusive pilgrimage you will experience sites such as the Grotto of Massabielle and the pilgrim's path to Compostela, the Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese, the "Little Flower", Omaha Beach, and the City of Light, Paris, plus many more. Each guest will enjoy 4-star hotel accommodations, breakfast and dinner daily, as well as an opportunity for daily Mass and spiritual activities. For more info contact my office at 608-788-7700.

Travel to Italy, Germany, Austria and Switzerland with Pacelli Catholic Schools student and staff! Anyone can sign up to travel with us, friends, family, parishioners! The dates of the trip are **June 10-21, 2019**.