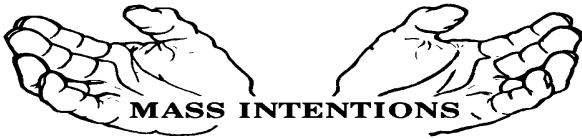




St. James & St. Mary Mt. Carmel



8:15 am Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday Dec 11th 8:15 AM at SJ

(Margaret Megal)

Wednesday Dec 12th 8:15 AM at SM

(Special Intentions of Barb Groholski)

Thursday Dec 13th 8:15 AM at SM

(All Souls Day)

Friday Dec 14th 8:15 AM at SJ

(Special Intentions of Barb Groholski)

Weekend Dec 15th & Dec 16th

Saturday Dec 15th 5:00 PM at SM

(Stanley & Marcie Turzinski)

Sunday Dec 16th 8:30 AM at SJ

Parishioners of our two parishes

Sunday Dec 16th 10:30 AM at SM

(Robert & Hattie Dombrowski)

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 9, 2018
2nd Sunday of Advent**

2nd Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

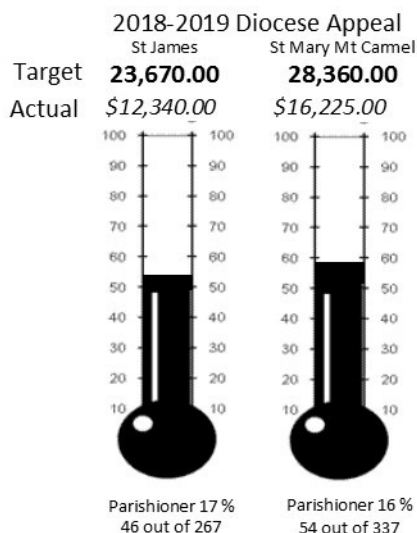
Blessed Advent to you all!

Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.

Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in communion with Rome.

Johns enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others.

Prepare the way!



Financial Report



SJ Contributions

Total Contributions December 2, 2018

\$3,294.00 Total

\$2,876.00 Envelopes

\$156.00 Offertory

We Share On-Line Contributions \$262 .00

SMMC Contributions

Total Contributions December 2, 2018

\$2,270.93 Total

\$1,720.00 Envelopes

\$305.93 Offertory

We Share On-Line Contributions 245.00

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:

Last weekend we sold \$6,625 in gift cards and made \$286 for our Parish. Thank you to everyone who participated! Our next sale will be on December 15th & 16th. Gift cards make excellent Christmas gifts. If you would like to place an order to be picked up at the next sale, please call Pat Zielinski at 715-824-3762 by December 11th.

Parish News...

During this Advent season we are offering a special liturgy to the children ages 4-7 who attend the 10:30 a.m. 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.

2018 Coat Drive A HUGE Thank you to everyone's generosity of donated coats this year! Overwhelmed by so many new and gently used coats that will keep our community warm! God's Blessings to you all!

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.

The Blue Army will meet to recite the rosary at St. Mary's on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 P.M. We will talk about St. Nicholas after the rosary. Everyone welcome. Questions, call Judy Kizewski at 715-592-4410. NOTE: We will not be meeting for the months of January and February.

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...

Br. James Miller to be Beatified

On Thursday, November 8, the Vatican announced that Pope Francis authorized the beatification of Stevens Point native Br. James Miller. He was shot to death on February 13, 1982 in Guatemala outside the school where he taught. We give thanks to the Holy Father and congratulate the Christian Brothers for Br. James Miller's heroic witness to his Faith.



Please support the Retirement Fund for Religious Elderly Catholic sister's, brothers and religious order priests need your help. All of us, in some way or another have benefitted from their many years of service in Catholic schools, hospitals and parishes. Your gift to the national Retirement Fund for collections for this campaign will be at Holy Mass the weekend of December 8-9. Thank you for your support! Roughly 94% of donations to the fund directly aid senior religious and their communities.

Faith Formation...

CCD

Saturday, December 15th 9:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church—
First Reconciliation St. James & St. Mary 2nd graders

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

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

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 15 or 22, 9-11am, to pick up loads of Catholic books and other educational material. For more information call or email Leo Jacoby, 715-341-2790, wisdom@wctc.net.

St. Adalbert School Christmas Concert, Saturday, **December 15** at 3 p.m. in the church hall. All are welcome to join us for a great performance by our students. Following will be a free dinner.

Reconciliation/Confessions at Franciscans Downtown

Fr. Placid Stroik, OFM is available to hear confessions at *Franciscans Downtown*, 1000 Main Street, Stevens Point

Thurs, Dec. 13, Thurs, Dec. 20, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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**.