

St. James, Tupelo

VIP (Very Important Parishioner) Report

from Rhonda Swita, Director of Parish Development

September 15, 2025



OUR TREASURES

Total Contributions from July-August reached \$229,377. A 22% increase over last year! Thank you for your generosity as we grow together toward our budget goal of \$264,895.

Mass Attendance for July-August has grown 7% compared to last year. Over the past 12 months, our 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Masses exceeded capacity respectfully 65% and 95% of the time, which leaves about 150 parishioners each week without seats.

From our Parishioner Contact Update effort, 45 new families registered and about 300 parishioners updated their information!

Status of Generis Generosity Coaching:

Generis has helped us implement a "90 Second Offertory Message" given by various parishioners who provide their giving testimonies, with the goal to motivate others to give. We continue to encourage all parishioners to give on a regular basis, including their time and their talents to make positive faith impacts in our community. The Generis Feasibility Study will also start this Fall to help us prepare for the Capital Campaign.

Meet our new Teams!

Building Design Team

David Friloux, Chair
Fernanda Castillo
Mike Gusmus
Anne Haire
Gricelda Martínez
Lauren Stacy
Thomas Whitenton
Fr. Tim Murphy

Marketing Team

Jenna Trautman, Chair
Sarah Iser
Jocelin Pace
Robby Parman (of counsel)
Richard Tucker

OUR TALENTS - Making an Impact on Faith Formation

Total Registered Students	438
---------------------------	-----

Parents & Students Who Attended the First Class Sunday Morning	215
--	-----

Registered Confirmation Students	56
----------------------------------	----

The biggest class ever!

Students Who Attended the First Class Wednesday Night	138
---	-----

Volunteers	65
------------	----

Thank you!

# New Families	27
----------------	----

Welcome!

Total Students Attending	251
Students Not Attending	187
Total Registered Students	438

We welcome you back with open arms!

OUR STORIES OF IMPACT

Miss Veronica reported that a family of four that was finding it very difficult to attend Faith Formation in previous years. This year they found a way not only to attend, but to get involved and help out as well!

After the first day of classes, Miss Veronica also received many positive comments from the Catechists who said, "The children seemed eager to learn, they were playful, and they were eager to get to know their teacher and their classmates."

Miss Erin has started a new routine on Wednesday nights - all students in grades 7-12 and the volunteers pray together at the very start. They pray over their ministry. The Life Teen message this year will focus on how they are accepted and needed in our church and what their role is in a united community. At the end of the night, they pray again for each other in a variety of ways.

Mr. Jai also was happy to report that his CYO kids were on fire for the Lord!!!