

St. James, Tupelo

VIP (Very Important Parishioner) Report

from Rhonda Swita, Director of Parish Development

November 7, 2025



Juan Amador & Abby Sanders

We are growing!

For the past three years, our registered households increased from 800 to 940, an 18% increase! (FYI - about 42% of these new households are Hispanic and the other 58% are mostly English speaking households.)

Our overall Mass attendance is up 11% to-date and 5% for the previous year. Also, after adding the two additional masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, the 9:00 a.m. and the 12:00 p.m. masses still continue to exceed capacity.

Our Offertory contributions year-to-date (July - Sept.) were \$448,777, an 18% increase over budget! We are ever grateful to all givers!

We are fully alive!

On October 23 we hosted the Diocese's Journey of Hope event featuring Fr. Burke Masters as the guest speaker. We packed the house at over 200 people and raised \$23,000 for Catholic Charities! 100% of the funds will benefit Vardaman's Family Life Center.



On October 29 we went all out at our annual Fall Fest! Children galore could be seen every where on campus delighting in the Knight's grilled burgers, Life Teen's trunk or treat all over the CLC, Life Teen again staging Alice in Wonderland in the gym classrooms, and then bouncing in the largest bounce house ever in the gym!!! And oh, a child hit the piñata so hard they broke the stick!!! Despite all of the sugar, we are confident the children slept very well that night!



On Wednesday, October 29, Michelle Harkins put out an email, asking for 20 turkeys and desserts to be donated towards the annual Vardaman Thanksgiving meal. Within 20 hours all 20 turkeys were provided for!!! How amazing was that?!

The joy of giving!

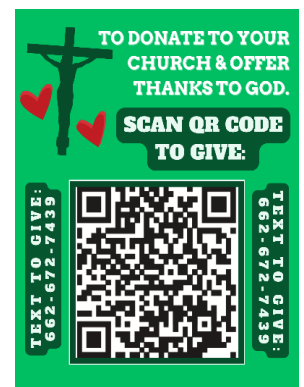
We are blessed!

Over the years God has richly blessed our St. James community through increased membership, vibrant ministries, dedicated pastoral care, and faith-filled people.

During this Christmas season as you consider all of your gifting needs, please consider giving a year-end gift to St. James, especially if you have never given before.

We have a wonderful opportunity before us. We are asking two-thirds of our parishioners who are *not* recognized givers, to have a one-on-one conversation with The Lord to determine how best they can give as an act of worship, thanksgiving, & trust.

Just as God has blessed you, consider passing some of those blessings onto your church family. You are St. James Church. We rely 100% on you. Make a year-end contribution to benefit all of our children's programs at St. James and in the community. *Thank you in advance for your generosity.*



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!