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VIP Report

(Very Important Parishioner)
 January 28, 2026



Matthew 6:21 For wherever
 your treasure is, there your
 heart will be also.

Hello friends, I sincerely hope you had a wonderful Advent and Christmas season, experiencing the peace and serenity of God's love. As the New Year abounds forth, I thought it would be helpful to explain the three different services that Generis is providing for us.

Project #1: Generosity Coaching (*different than a Capital Campaign drive*)

The *Building a Culture of Generosity Coaching* (July 2025 – March 2026) represents a vital step forward for St. James as we encourage every parishioner to grow in the grace of giving. This \$20,500 project is guided by biweekly consultations with David Lopez of Generis, Fr. Tim, and myself. Generis is composed of a group of seasoned stewardship consultants with more than 35 years of experience in parish engagement and generosity development.

Our goal is to engage *every member* of our parish family in supporting the ongoing operations and 20+ ministries that serve our community. Currently, only 373 households out of 918 households (41%) are disclosed givers. It is our goal to expand this participation. Especially by welcoming younger families and newer members into this shared journey of faith and generosity. With Generis' support, we are taking intentional steps to create a *parish-wide culture of giving*:

- **Philosophy of Giving:** A foundational statement that expresses *why* we give that is grounded in faith, gratitude, and mission. (Posted on our website under Parish/Development News.)
- **Pathway to Giving:** A practical guide to help every parishioner understand their next step in generosity. (Posted on our website under Parish/Development News.)
- **Offertory Moment:** A brief reflection during Mass to remind us that giving begins with prayerful discernment and flows from worship, thanksgiving, and trust.
- **Testimonies of Giving:** Parishioners share personal stories that illustrate the joy and impact of their giving.

At the heart of this effort is the **2026 Stewardship Pledge Card**. This is a simple but meaningful starting place for many who are giving for the first time, and a next step for those who are ready to go deeper in their giving commitment. Although early in this project, here is what God is doing at St. James thus far, for the calendar years ended Dec. 31, 2024 and 2025, with our goal listed for 2026. (As a reminder, St. James operates on a fiscal year-end; as of June 30.)

	2024	2025	2026 Goal
Number of New First-time Givers	39	71	85
Total Number of Disclosed Givers	356	373	400
Total Cash Donations (<i>Undisclosed Givers</i>)	\$ 190,792	\$ 205,321	
Current Givers Increased Their Giving	30%	65%	
Total Giving	\$ 1,284,000	\$ 1,532,000	

Thank you!

We remain confident that continued engagement through the Pledge Card will invite many more to participate. As this journey unfolds, we will keep learning, adapting, and celebrating how God is growing generosity among us at St. James.

Project #2: Feasibility Study

The *Feasibility Study* is a key part of our broader effort to shape a culture of generosity and shared mission at St. James. This project, valued at \$20,000, has been completely funded by a few generous parishioners who believe deeply in its importance. This is a beautiful sign of faith in action. The study began in Fall 2025 and will continue through Spring 2026.

Its purpose is simple yet profound: to discern, with wisdom and unity, whether St. James is ready and able to move forward with building a new church. Just as Scripture reminds us, *“Whoever builds a tower must first sit down and estimate the cost”* (Luke 14:28), we too are prayerfully considering the resources, readiness, and enthusiasm among our community before taking this significant next step. Generis will make their recommendation based on the following activities:

- **Building Design Team:** A dedicated group of parishioners is currently collaborating with architects to develop a conceptual layout and preliminary cost estimates.
- **Donor Capacity Study:** Will be conducted to determine the collective “giving capacity” of our parishioner base to support such a project. This step has been completed.
- **Case for Support:** A compelling vision document is being drafted to clearly share *why* we believe God is calling St. James to this new chapter, *what* the plan entails, and *how* we can accomplish it together.
- **Parishioner Interviews:** Generis consultants will be conducting one-on-one conversations with 25 thoughtfully selected, diverse parishioners to gather honest feedback and spiritual insight about our parish’s direction and readiness.
- **Parish-wide Survey:** A broader survey will then invite every household to share their perspectives, hopes, and level of investment in St. James’ future.

Once the study concludes, Generis will present a recommendation to parish leadership for review. Only after that discernment process and with prayerful confidence in our collective readiness, will we move toward a future *Capital Campaign*.

Project #3: Capital Campaign

The *Capital Campaign* project represents the next natural step in our journey toward building a new church at St. James. Estimated at approximately \$36,000 and spanning over 36 months, this initiative is thoughtfully budgeted for the current year to ensure we are prepared should the parish decide to move forward with the new church this fiscal year.

Pending the outcomes of the Feasibility Study, we anticipate that Generis will continue to guide us in this next phase and equip us to raise the funds needed to bring the vision of a new church to life.

In Conclusion

This is an exciting and wonderful time for St. James. I am hopeful for our future and extremely thankful for my St. James family. I appreciate YOU and your faithful membership. Together, at the top of the hill, we can be a beacon of light to others.

If you would like more information, please feel free to give me a call. We can discuss over the phone or over a cup of coffee. I am here to serve you. (My cell is 662-231-7671.)

P.S. You can find more Developmental News on our website under the Parish tab.