



VIP Report

(Very Important Parishioner)
March 13, 2026



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

Rhonda Swita
Director of Parish Development

Hello friends,
I was recently thinking about all of the ways that St. James serves others. So I compiled a list. To my amazement, there are 50 ways to connect to St. James! People connect to St. James through three pathways...

- Christ - Through the Mass, the Sacraments, and Faith Formation
- Discipleship - Through Ministry Outreach Programs
- Stewardship – Through our Financial Treasures

I would like to focus on **Discipleship**. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus calls us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”. Our patron saint, James:1:22 says “Be doers of the word.” and boy does our parish have many wonderful ways to do just that! See if any of the following Outreach Ministries resonate with you and call the contact person to find out more information. If nothing “speaks to you”, no worries. Look for my next VIP Report that highlights ministries that connect to **Christ**. Together at the top of the hill, we can be a beacon of light to others!

Ministry Name	Contact Person	Phone #
Backpack Food Program: Donate & pack weekend meals and snacks for kids.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Beds For Kids: Construct, deliver, and assemble beds for kids who need a bed.	Michael Boland	662-889-8770
Bread of Life: Prepare and distribute to-go meals for the homeless.	Mary Frances Strange	662-871-6277
Casserole Club: Prepare casseroles for parishioners with illness or injury.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Catch Kids: Provides free, high-quality healthcare and dental care to children.	Ed Ivancic	662-401-6645
Catholic Charities: A broad program to reduce poverty and provide stability.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Come Home Movement: Attracting people to the Catholic faith.	David Haadsma	662-422-1984
DISMIS Program: Provides essentials to those being dismissed from prison.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Food Pantry – Nettleton: Organize, pack, and carry out food for the needy.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Food Pantry – St. Luke: Packing food for the needy in Lee County.	Kathy Pizza	662-231-0086
Habitat for Humanity: Build affordable housing for low-income families.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Happy Hearts: For adults 55+ who meet monthly to socialize and have fun.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Hispanic ACTS: Lay-driven apostolate that conducts retreats to foster deeper relationships with Jesus Christ, the parish community, and the church.	Men - Fortunato Gomez	662-260-7390
	Women - Angelica Castillo	662-231-1011
Hispanic Ministry Other: Helps with many basic needs of our Hispanic families.	Raquel Thomspen	662-402-9599
Hospital Ministry: Visit the sick, to give them hope and encouragement.	Sheri Boettcher	662-871-0050
Knights of Columbus: Catholic fraternity of men who support charitable works.	Thomas Whitenton	662-871-0888
Meals on Wheels: Prepare, pack, and deliver lunches to shut-ins, Mon-Fri.	Jaime McGrath	662-213-4646
New Beginnings: An agency that supports and assists with adoptions.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Parkgate Pregnancy Center: A one-stop resource for life-affirming choices.	Carrie Haadsma	662-213-4916
Prison Ministry: Help Fr. Tim organize and pack items for his monthly visits.	Fr. Tim Murphy	662-304-0087
Red Cross Partners: Respond to basic agency requests for help in our area.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Tree of Hope: Donate a variety of Christmas gifts to children in need.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055
Tree of Life: Provides free basic medical and dental care to the uninsured.	Meg Gibens	662-322-7685
Working Together MS: Organize diverse groups to foster relationships and tackle community concerns.	Michelle Harkins	662-231-1055

