



Rhonda Swita
Director of Parish Development

VIP Report

(Very Important Parishioner)
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Matthew 6:21 For wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Hello to my St. James family,

What a busy Easter liturgical season we have had! We celebrated our Lenten Mission, the Men’s ACTS retreat, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil Mass inducting 15 people into the Catholic faith, 1,979 people attended Easter Sunday services, followed by 47 students making their Confirmation, 45 students making their First Holy Communion, and 25 students recognized at the Baccalaureate Mass. Fr. Tim certainly has his silver sneakers on!! 😊

This leads in so well with my third way to *connect* to St. James, through **stewardship**. Your financial gift supports and strengthens all of these ministries (and many more), enabling us to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

I must admit, talking about Stewardship is rather awkward for me, and I assume for many of you as well. After all, we are taught not to draw attention to our giving (Matthew 6:1-4).

We can still honor this teaching by having a conversation about how is God is working in your heart and through you to bless others by your generosity. You don’t have to mention the dollar amount. Let’s give God all of the glory! And then, to further the conversation, what steps have you taken in return to increase your generosity? How are you showing your gratitude? Blessings do prompt a response.

For example, I recently attended a fundraiser event for Parkgate Pregnancy Clinic. Just after attending Fr. Shelton’s “heart-filled” Lenten message, I was moved to give that night not based on logic, but rather on what my heart was telling me. I realized how deeply I have been blessed with my four wonderful children. I wanted my giving to reflect that gratitude.

So let the word “Stewardship”, the act of giving financially, be a popular topic for discussion these days. It no longer has to be taboo. I would love to hear your stories on how God is blessing you and growing your heart and mind through increased giving. These stories are worth sharing.

Consider connecting to St. James through your financial gifts in the following ways.

Ways to Give	Contact Person	Phone #
Weekly Mass Offertory Collection	Meg Gibens	662-322-7685
Give Online: Scan here: 	Meg Gibens	662-322-7685
Legacy Giving: Remember St. James in your will, life insurance policy, endowments, etc.	Rhonda Swita	662-231-7671
Pledge: Strategically plan for your financial giving. Scan here: 	Rhonda Swita	662-231-7671