St. James
GREATER CATHOLIC CHURCH

2026 Stewardship Report

Fiscal Year end June 30, 2026

Pastor

Father Tim Murphy

Finance Council

Armando Carrillo
Alex Emplaincourt, Chair
Karina Escobedo
Nathan Strange
Samantha Weatherford
Jo Anne Williams
Mark Williams

Cash Balances as of June 30, 2026

Restricted Cash Balances:		
St. Thomas - Saltillo	$	131,851
Building Funds	$	11,041
Ladies Club	$	8,123
St. Vincent de Paul	$	921
Total Restricted Cash	$	151,936
Contingency Fund	$	336,014
Available Cash	$	734,675
Total Cash Balances	$	1,222,625

Note: All cash balances are held in acordance with requirements from the Diocese of Jackson and are checking or savings accounts. Within the available cash balance, the Finance Council has established a $336,014 contingency amount to support operational shortfalls. This contigency fund is calcuated as 10% of the actual year end expenses multiplied by 2.5 times.

Revenues and Expenses

	This Year						Next Year		
	Year Ended June 30, 2026						Year Ended June 30, 2027		
	Actual			Budget			Budget		
Revenue:									
Avg. Weekly Offertory	**$**	**28,312**		**$**	**29,442**		**$**	**29,985**	
Total Offertory Donations	$	1,472,218		$	1,531,000		$	1,559,218	
Interest Income	$	26,683		$	23,000		$	26,000	
Other Revenue	$	44,687		$	35,776		$	27,810	
Total Revenue	**$**	**1,543,588**	100%	**$**	**1,589,776**	100%	**$**	**1,613,028**	100%
Expenses:									
Ministry & Liturgy	$	442,820	29%	$	445,449	28%	$	520,760	32%
Facilities	$	391,731	25%	$	433,030	27%	$	521,096	32%
General & Admin.	$	155,493	10%	$	152,006	10%	$	124,091	8%
Diocesan Assessment	$	143,210	9%	$	147,000	9%	$	147,000	9%
Religious Formation	$	116,286	8%	$	188,361	12%	$	159,387	10%
Charity & Outreach	$	52,512	3%	$	50,000	3%	$	60,000	4%
Capital Campaign	$	42,003	3%	$	84,000	5%	$	70,000	4%
Total Expenses	$	1,344,055	87%	$	1,499,846	94%	$	1,602,334	99%
Income in Excess of Expense	**$**	**199,533**	13%	**$**	**89,930**	6%	**$**	**10,694**	**1%**

Notes Explaining Revenues and Expenses

Offertory Donations

Actual offertory donations for the Year End June 30, 2026, missed budget by 4%. We were still pleased with the results as it represents an increase of 11% ($149,383) over fiscal Year End 2025. The Finance Council believes the solid performance in offertory was due to two factors; the appointment of a Director of Parish Development and the Generosity campaign that the church undertook last year. As both of these are going forward in the church's new fiscal year, we are budgeting an increase of 6 % ($87,000) over the 2026 Year End offertory numbers.

We want to thank those who responded to our call for generosity, as well as those who continue to tithe regularly to the Church. We invite those who are members of our Parish who do not tithe on a regular basis to prayerfully consider your ability to do so in the future.

Ministry and Liturgy Expenses

Ministry and Liturgy expenses include a variety of costs:

- Mass, the liturgy, and the administration of the sacraments.
- Music programs and six different youth and adult choirs.
- Many family life events and activities such as parish missions, Faith Formation Wednesday night dinners, funeral costs, guest speakers, church directory expense, and other social gatherings.
- A Hispanic Pastoral Ministry that is at the heart of supporting our Hispanic people to welcome, educate, and celebrate the faith. Our most impactful ministries include: a men's and women's annual ACTS retreat, a Good Friday (outside) Passion Play, special celebrations for Our Lady of Guadalupe, cultural festivals, educational workshops, and formation classes.
- Priest support, stipend, supplies, vehicle expenses, and professional development.
- A dedicated staff of individuals who passionately contribute to these ministries.

For the upcoming fiscal year, we are budgeting an increase of $77,940 over the prior year with the increase spread over the six bullet points noted above.

Facilities Expense

Our St. James campus is comprised of seven buildings, encompassing over 60,000 sq. ft. These buildings include: the Church, the Church Office, the Catholic Life Center (CLC), the Gymnasium, the Knights of Columbus building, the 799 House, and the Rectory. Each of these facilities plays a vital role in our faith community. Significant facilities expenditures include the cost of utilities, staff, insurance, equipment, maintenance, and repairs. In this last fiscal Year End, in support of the feasibility study for a potential new church, this also included $21,594 in architect fees for the design of the new church building.

As noted above, St. James has seven buildings with all of these being 20+ years in age. Actual expenses compared to budget for 2026 were less by approximately $41,000, which was attributed to a timing difference in repairs to the 799 House. In addition to these monies, the Gym will receive approximately $57,301 for maintenance to the gym floor and window replacements. The remaining increase of $31,000 is normal repair and maintenance one would expect with an aged campus.

General & Administrative Expenses

We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff that lives the vision of "church" by working for all parishioners at St. James. In addition to the people side of running a church, we have the same administrative needs that any business faces. Monies in this category cover salaries and benefits, office supplies, communication, subscriptions, copying, and bank charges to name a few.

For our upcoming budget, we forecast an expense need of $124,091.

Diocesan Assessment

The Cathedraticum Fee is a required assessment by the Jackson Diocese on all parishes to fund and support the Bishop. The Diocese mandates a 5% fee on the first $25,000 in Offertory Donations, and then 10.5% on the remaining income. The Jackson Diocese uses this money to cover their operational costs. Additionally, monies will help offset the cost diocesan communications such as "Mississippi Catholic", website expenses, maintenance of diocesan offices, and general and administrative expenses.

We will budget the same percentage formula for this year's budget which resulted in $147,000 for this category.

Religious Formation

One of the most important callings as Catholics and as parents is to teach the faith to our children so that they come to know Jesus Christ. While this important work initially begins at home, our goal at St. James is to offer a robust children's faith formation program to assist parents in educating their children about the Catholic faith. During this last year, we had 438 students enrolled in the following programs:

Sunday Mornings:

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (4 years – 1st grade)
- Faith Formation (Grades 2-6)
- Family Faith Formation

Wednesday Nights:

- 7th and 8th Grade Classes and CYO
- Life Teen (Grades 9 -12)
- Confirmation Prep Class

A variety of adult faith formation classes are also offered including two OCIA classes, one in English and one in Spanish. Religious Formation expenses cover the cost of salaries, supplies, books, training, activities, special events such as DNOW, and sacramental costs. Actual costs were primarily less than budget by approximately $72,000 due to: a savings of $30,000 as Life Teen did not attend Catholic Heart Workcamp, $28,000 in and program supply savings across all programs.

For this year's planned budget, we set aside $159,387.

Charity & Outreach

Members of St. James participate in over 20 different outreach programs. St. James also financially supports many charities in our community such as: American Red Cross, Catch Kids, Catholic Charities, Faith Food Pantry, FOCUS, Parkgate Pregnancy Center, The Salvation Army, Tree of Life, and Working Together Mississippi. Internally, we also support Meals on Wheels, Backpack for Kids, Tree of Hope Christmas gifts, Fr. Tim's Prison Ministry, and St. Vincent de Paul needs. Last year we also made up for the Catholic Service Appeal shortfall of $2,616.

Charity and Outreach will be $60,000 for this year's budget.

Capital Campaign

We contracted Generis Consultants to coach us to increase regular offertory giving, conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the viability of building a new church, and to assist in the actual capital campaign if that was indeed a decision the church made. The total money set aside for this was $84,000. Actual costs were less than budget by $42,000 as we have not started the Capital Campaign as of 6/30/26, the church's Year End.

Assuming we will go forward with the Capital Campaign next year, we will budget a total of $70,000 to include Generis consulting fees and related marketing expenses for events, materials, and fees.

Income in Excess of Expenses

Members of the Finance Council, as has been true for many years. believe it is/was prudent to build cash reserves for future needs. We are fortunate to have a vibrant Church on the hill. While we enjoy a satisfactory cash reserve today, our growth and ministry call us to be ready for tomorrow. Buildings age, programs grow, and unforeseen circumstances occur. We want to be prepared in case these outcomes become a reality.

You will note that at the end of our Year End 2026, income in excess of expense was $199,533 compared to a budget of $89,930. As noted in the Facility section and Capital Campaign section above, two large expenses did not occur in 2026 due to timing differences. If both would have happened, income in excess of expenses would have been $116,533 vs a budget of $89,930.

Conclusion

Due to the generosity of our parishioners, St. James is currently in a strong financial position. We are able to meet our current operational needs and are able to maintain a rainy-day fund that allows the parish to weather through unforeseen challenges.

We thank the parishioners of St. James for all of the support you have given to the parish. We ask you to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to take the next step in your Pathway to Giving, our " St. James Camino". We welcome all, and all are invited to financially support our vibrant and impactful ministries. May God continue to bless our Church and our families as we work together in the Body of Christ.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Meg Gibens, our Business Manager, or a Finance Council member at: financecouncil@stjamestupelo.com .

St. James Internal Controls Narrative

St. James Catholic Church, as well as, the Catholic Diocese of Jackson, believe in being sound stewards of the Parish's finances. For this reason, the St. James Finance Council works to ensure the Parish maintains and adheres to strong internal controls over all aspects of the Church finances. St. James strictly follows diocesan internal controls relating to Hiring Practices, Protection of Children, Segregation of Duties (cash handling and Accounts Payable), and Financial Reporting. The Finance Council reviews the financial reports at their monthly meetings. Also, the Diocese performs an internal audit with reports reviewed by the Bishop, Diocesan leadership, our Pastor, and members of our Finance Council.

Connect to St. James

through...... Christ Discipleship and Stewardship

The Mission of
St. James Catholic Church

To love God, serve His people, and become a united community in Christ.

"Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

St. James Statistical Blessings...			
	For the 12 months ended:		
	@ 6/30/24	**@ 6/30/25**	**@ 6/30/26**
St. James Resgistered Households:	859	918	937
Percent that rountinely give	42%	41%	40%
Top 50 Givers give what % of total donations?	54%	57%	55%
Mass Attendance - Average per Weekend:	898	920	1,061
Sacraments Celebrated:			
# of Baptisms	22	30	55
# of First Communions	37	37	45
# of Confirmations	40	26	47
# of Weddings	3	8	7
# of Funerals	8	8	7
# of Children Enrolled in Faith Formation:	434	444	438
# of OCIA Members Inducted into the Church:	10	10	15

Our St. James Camino, (Pathway to Giving), starts with a one-on-one conversation with The Lord to determine how best you can give as an act of worship, thanksgiving, and trust. Fr. Tim's goal is to have 100% particpation so that St. James will continue to grow and thrive, fullfilling the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We invite you to become a regular giver at St. James to support all of our positive, impactful ministries.

Thank you for your financial gift and may God bless you a thousand times over. (Deuteronomy 1:11)