We are gifted We are called

ST. JAMES

SYNODAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY MIDTOWN

2027 Stewardship Appeal

The 2027 Appeal

At St. James, we are striving for 100% participation because every family in our parish matters and when every household joins in, no matter the amount, our parish grows stronger, and our mission is more visible.

Stewardship is more than a moment, it is a way of life. Throughout the year, we invite parishioners to share their time and talent in service to God and one another. Each November, St. James places special focus on the sharing of our financial gifts, recognizing that our treasure is essential to sustaining and growing our mission.

Our WE ARE GIFTED, WE ARE CALLED Appeal is an invitation to prayerfully commit your financial support for the coming year: January - December 2027. Your generosity directly fuels the life of our parish:

- Supporting our dedicated parish staff
- Enriching worship and liturgical celebrations
- Providing religious education and faith formation
- Extending Christ's love through mission and outreach
- Caring for and maintaining our parish facilities and utilities

When faith takes root in our hearts, it naturally bears fruit in how we live and give. Stewardship is not simply about meeting a budget, it is about transforming gratitude into action. Every gift offered becomes a seed of hope; creating a synodal community, helping those in need, and nurturing the next generation in faith.

In giving, we do not lose, we multiply grace. Through generosity, our faith becomes more visible by strengthening our vibrant parish community, transforming the lives of those who call St. James their spiritual home, and extending compassion to neighbors in need.

In every gift, we discover the joy of building God's Kingdom together.

Vision

St. James Parish will be a vital Catholic Christian presence at the crossroads of Kansas City, meeting the spiritual needs of our members, and impacting both the midtown neighborhood and the larger community. We will be a growing and diverse community where worship and sacramental life are joyful and vibrant. A place where people are empowered to live the Gospel; and where the needs of the poor and disenfranchised are lovingly and humbly addressed.

Mission

We, the people of the St. James community, in faith, commit ourselves to building the Reign of God for all people, serving especially our neighbors in Midtown, KC.

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2027 Stewardship Appeal

A Message From Our Synodal Director

I have had the privilege of serving as Parish Synodal Director for nearly 11 months, and during that time I have been deeply inspired by the faith, generosity, and love that our parishioners have for St. James. From my unique vantage point as parish director, I witness every day the countless lives being touched through the ministry and outreach of our parish. Whether it is the compassion shown through our Between the Cracks outreach, the transformative worship experiences we share, or the many quiet acts of service that often go unseen, I am continually reminded that God is at work through the people of St. James.

None of this happens by accident. It is possible because parishioners like you respond to God's call by generously sharing your time, talent, and treasure. Your gifts make a real difference. They strengthen our parish community, support our ministries, and extend Christ's love far beyond our church walls.

As you review the information in this stewardship packet, I invite you to take time for prayer and reflection. Ask God how you are being called to share the gifts entrusted to you. Discuss your response with your family and consider how your commitment can help St. James continue its mission in the year ahead.

On December 6, please return your stewardship commitment card at Mass or by mail before that date. Thank you for being part of our faith family and for the support you have given me over the last 11 months.



Journeying Together,

Diane Etzel-Wise

Synodal Parish Director

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship begins with a profound truth: everything we are and everything we have is a gift from our loving God. Our lives, our talents, and our resources; all flow from God's generosity.

The essential question is, "What will we do with these gifts?" The life of Jesus shows us the answer. We are called to build the Kingdom of God here on earth centered around love and justice.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops describe stewardship: "As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord."

Stewardship, then, is not an optional practice but the very heart of what it means to live as a Catholic. It is the daily call to offer our time, talent, and treasure in service of God's mission; to transform gratitude into action, and gifts into blessings for others.

Before You Decide

For many, this is the most significant charitable gift of the year. As you prayerfully discern your commitment:

Give Thanks: Rejoice in God's blessings, entrusted to us to build God's Kingdom.

Pray for Guidance: What is the sacrifice God asks of you?

Remember: St. James depends on each of us today and for generations to come.

Know: Every gift makes a vital difference.

Adjust: Your commitment can be changed anytime by calling the office.

Discuss: Speak with your family about faithful generosity.

Honor the past: Continue the legacy of those who gave before us.

The Past

Through your support, St. James has flourished this past year. Here is a glimpse of what we have accomplished together:

- Our parish embraced our new Synodal Director, Diane Etzel-Wise, who has been steering our parish efforts and organizing our teams.
- St. James joined with St. Francis Xavier and St. Therese Little Flower to be part of the Cathedral of the Streets. Our Cathedral is a collaboration of the three parishes dedicated to serving Midtown KC.
- St. James saw 10 Baptisms, 10 communions, 10 First Reconciliations, 2 weddings, and 4 deaths
- The year's biggest accomplishment from the music end of liturgy was Holy Week and specifically, Good Friday. St. James collaborated with the other choirs from SFX and STLF to make wonderful music together. The music on Good Friday was our finest in recent memory.
- As a Catholic community, we are journeying together with the universal church, the diocese, and with one another. We began our synodal journey with monthly meetings in fall 2024, learned more about the meaning of synodality, and have moved to a model of Conversations in the Spirit with plans for small faith group encounters during Lent and Easter in 2027. Our large All Parish Synod Meetings will take place quarterly with the next one including a retreat early in 2027. Plan to join with your sisters and brothers in this journey!



ST. JAMES IS A VIBRANT, FAITH-FILLED COMMUNITY ROOTED IN WORSHIP, UNITED IN SERVICE, AND JOYFUL IN FELLOWSHIP!



2027 Stewardship Appeal

Ministries & Outreach

In our parish, ministry is internal and external. It is a story of parish growth as well as neighbors caring for neighbors.

- Our parish support of Bishop Sullivan has included 1,240 lbs of food collected on Pantry Sunday, 432 volunteer hours at One City Cafe and Pantry, 7,150 sandwiches made, and Christmas gifts supplied for 25 children.
- Our Faith Formation programs have grown this year, especially with our children and youth. Our Children's Liturgy of the Word has formed a community of happy children and families. Our Sacramental preparation sessions have parents and children coming together to learn and celebrate their faith.
- This year saw a resurgence for our Youth thanks to the guidance of Chris Dewberry. Our teens recently volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House Trunk or Treat, providing candy to 500 trick or treaters. Youth also helped at our recent All Saints Sunday Funday and many other events throughout our liturgical year.
- Our teens and younger kids have stepped up to be trained and fill liturgical roles as alter servers, a blessed addition to each Mass.
- Over the past year, Between the Cracks Ministry has quietly stepped in to help 12 families with rent stability, 9 families with utilities, and 6 people afford much needed medication.
- At the corner bus stop, where daily life can feel forgotten, our Bus Stop Ministry has handed out over 1,500 snacks & drinks, 1,010 hats & scarves, and 400 sack lunches on weekends when Bishop Sullivan was closed. These simple gifts say, "You are seen. You are cared for."
- Once a month after Mass Hospitality Sundays have hosted and served parishioners and visitors at St. James. Our Fourteen volunteers offer coffee, tea and other beverages, as well as homemade treats both savory and sweet, fruit, gluten free snacks and more. We estimate that we serve about 60-70 people on those Sundays. We have passed any leftovers on to not-for-profits such as Journey to New Life.
- St. James continues to donate to Troost39 through individuals and parishioners downsizing larger homes. This year we had 6 parishioners regularly volunteer and Pat Marrin helped introduce a colonnade visitor to Troost39 who is now working there and helping his community!
- The Communal Garden grows fresh vegetables that make their way to the tables of families who might otherwise go without. This fall, we delivered hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to the Bishop Sullivan Food Pantry, including some of the largest sweet potatoes we have ever grown! St. James was able to share approximately 500 pounds of of fresh produce that went directly to our neighbors & community this year.









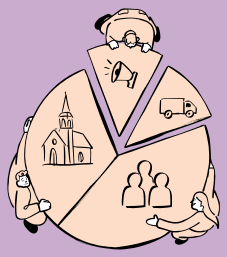
Your stewardship makes all this possible

Together, we are building the Kingdom of God starting at the corner of 39th and Troost. Please join us in committing your treasure for 2027 so that St. James can continue to grow as a place of worship, welcome, and witness.

Financials

St. James' Budget Review			
	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	BUDGETED
INCOME	**Actual**	**Actual**	**FY 26-27**
Contribution Income - Tithing	$334,013.85	$272,690.86	$279,508.13
Gifts & Fundraising Income	$22,825.24	$83,950.29	$70,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	$9,347.08	$24,291.54	$33,930.71
Religious Education Income	$900.00	$8,234.00	$4,500.00
Social Ministry/Justice Income	$5,055.49	$28,015.97	$15,250.00
Diocesan/Parish Allocation Income	$0.00	$12,000.00	$9,000.00
Other Income	$33,703.99	$0.00	$0.00
Wills & Bequests*	$15,826.22	$108,300.34	$150,000.00
Total Income	**$421,671.87**	**$537,483.00**	**$562,188.84**
EXPENSES			
Lay & Clergy Salaries & Bennifits Expense	**$93,560.31**	**$83,907.92**	**$116,151.00**
Utilities	$16,360.04	$16,515.58	$18,493.00
Campus Utilities, Repairs & Cleaning Expense	$21,313.27	$38,078.62	$35,730.00
Security, Furniture & Equipment Expense	$13,094.88	$17,637.66	$19,200.00
Total Facilities Expense	**$50,768.19**	**$72,231.86**	**$73,423.00**
Printing, Postage & Supplies Expense	$2,548.52	$2,547.41	$3,100.00
Legal, Accounting, Payroll & Bank Services	$14,148.02	$3,675.73	$4,500.00
Diocesan Assessment & Insurance Obligations	$105,898.00	$100,524.00	$115,430.00
Total Books/Periodical Expense	$572.42	$0.00	$0.00
Total Development Expense	$633.69	$650.77	$2,000.00
Periodicals, Fundraising & Special Events	$0.00	$602.62	$2,500.00
Hospitality & Growth	$0.00	$0.00	$2,250.00
Donations & Catholic School Support	$878.70	$250.00	$500.00
Total General/Operational Expense	**$124,679.35**	**$108,250.53**	**$130,280.00**
Prayer & Worship Expense	$3,303.28	$3,091.57	$5,750.00
Religious Education Expense	$481.83	$752.80	$2,000.00
Sacramental Prep Expense	$1,657.99	$581.94	$2,000.00
Other	$932.25	$1,343.33	$2,587.00
Total Religious Education Expense	**$6,375.35**	**$5,769.64**	**$12,337.00**
Young Adult Expense	$0.00	$640.00	$1,000.00
Family Ministry Expense	$1,047.23	$301.83	$1,500.00
Social Ministry/Justice Expense	$4,003.99	$8,676.85	$12,000.00
Other Pastoral Ministry	$11,367.40	$317.10	$1,200.00
Total Pastoral Ministry Expense	**$16,418.62**	**$9,935.78**	**$15,700.00**
Total Repairs & Maintenance - Buildings > $10,000		**$11,500.92**	**$70,000.00**
Total Expenses	**$291,801.82**	**$291,596.65**	**$417,891.00**
Net Surplus	**$129,870.05**	**$245,886.35**	**$144,297.84**
Approximate Total in Savings/Checking Accounts	**$520,000.00**		
* Represent larger gifts and planned giving and/or wills gifts. Difficult to budget for.			
FY 24/25 Basic Model did not include diocesan obligations as expense			

If you already give 5% or more to St. James, thank you for your faithful generosity! If you are able to increase your commitment this year, we are deeply grateful.



When faith takes root in our hearts, it naturally bears fruit in how we live and how we give. Stewardship is not simply about meeting a budget, it is about transforming gratitude into action. Every gift offered becomes a seed of hope, creating a synodal community, helping those in need, and nurturing the next generation in faith. By sharing our financial blessings, we join God's work of renewal in the world, turning belief into tangible love. In giving, we do not lose, we multiply grace.

GENEROSITY:

- Strengthens our vibrant parish community,
- Transforms the lives of those who call St. James their spiritual home,
- Extends compassion to neighbors in need.

We invite every household to embrace the biblical challenge of tithing 10% of gross income:

- **5% to sustain the mission and ministries of St. James Parish**
- **1% to the Diocesan Annual Appeal**
- **4% to other Kingdom-building efforts, serving those in need locally and globally**

Tithing, Proportionate Giving, & Your Commitment

If you are not yet giving **5% of your household income** to St. James, we encourage you to prayerfully consider increasing your commitment by just **one-half of one percent of your household income each year until you reach the goal of 5%.** This modest step can make a significant difference. The chart below shows how an added commitment of a one-half of one percent increase in household income translates into annual and weekly giving at different income levels.

Tithing Commitment Guide Chart

Total income	0.50%	1%	1.50%	2%	2.50%	3%	3.50%	4%	4.50%	5%
$150,000	$750	$1,500	$2,250	$3,000	$3,750	$4,500	$5,250	$6,000	$6,750	$7,500
$125,000	$625	$1,250	$1,875	$2,500	$3,125	$3,750	$4,375	$5,000	$5,625	$6,250
$100,000	$500	$1,000	$1,500	$2,000	$2,500	$3,000	$3,500	$4,000	$4,500	$5,000
$75,000	$375	$750	$1,125	$1,500	$1,875	$2,250	$2,625	$3,000	$3,375	$3,750
$50,000	$250	$500	$750	$1,000	$1,250	$1,500	$1,750	$2,000	$2,250	$2,500
$25,000	$125	$250	$375	$500	$625	$750	$875	$1,000	$1,125	$1,250
$15,000	$75	$150	$225	$300	$375	$450	$525	$600	$675	$750

Every Gift Matters

If you are new to giving to St. James, consider starting small: $5 a week, $10, or more. Even $5 a week adds up to $260 a year, enough to make a real impact in the life of our parish. Every gift, large and small, is a powerful expression of faith and gratitude. and belonging. Together, our generosity fuels our mission, strengthens our community, and extends Christ's love far beyond our walls. When we give, we build something bigger than ourselves. We build St. James.

Now Is the Time

Commitment Sunday, December 6, is our moment to come together as one parish family. By returning your commitment card at Mass or by mail you are saying YES to the mission of St. James' future.

Your response is more than a card. It is a visible sign of faith, gratitude, and shared responsibility. Let us take this step forward TOGETHER.



Why Turn in a Commitment Card?

Turning in a card is vital—it allows parish leadership to plan and budget wisely. Not sure of your gift? Start small. You can always adjust your commitment later by calling the parish office.

Can I Use My Retirement RMDs?

Yes. You can give directly from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) account to St. James. Doing so may reduce your taxable income. Check with your financial planner or accountant before making the contribution. You can also call the parish office for assistance.

Can I Give Non-Cash Gifts?

Yes. St. James accepts many types of gifts—such as property, vehicles, jewelry, antiques, or crops. In most cases, it's best to convert these items to cash before donating.