Bishop Paprocki's Visit

August 22-23, 2026

- Bishop Opening
    - Restored order has helped alleviate Bishop's schedule so events like this can be possible
    - The Four Pillars: Hospitality, Prayer, Service and Formation
        - Three observations from Bishop regarding the presentation:

1. "Very professional and I'm not surprised."
2. We are doing a lot of things and doing them very well. We are using the treasures of the Church and fleshing them out in a good way. We are not creating something new (exs: Church provides Sacrament, we make it available, and people know that is available and come; we don't create the Bible but we put together Bible studies) but using what is rich in the Church and making it available.
3. The pastor sets the tone and empowers people to do things. He commends Father Rob for his leadership and attracting and empowering people to do these things

- Information from Bishop
    - Statistics from 2024 & 2025:
        - October count up 8.65 %; 858 to 890 households; parishioner count decreased (due to cleaning up the records and the books)
        - Baptisms: 22 to 25
        - Burials: 22
        - Marriages: 1
        - 2025
            - Burials: 23
            - Marriages: 4
        - Finances: 11% increase in the last year
        - Total regular Church Support: increased

        - Finances look good.

- Parishioners open floor:
    - Joe: young families and young children alive in this parish.
    - Alan: grew up in Belleville Diocese; thanks both Bishop and Father Rob for what this parish does
- Opening up the floor::
    - What capacity is SJN at right now?
        - Single class right now (Max of 25 students per class). 211 students this year. The 7th grade has 30 students so they do have 2 classes. There is some growth noticed. Seeing more students stay in Middle School because of Father McGivney
    - Financial Stability at the School
        - Costs have increased; our fundraising has not kept pace with increasing costs
        - There is a 20% fundraising goal of the Diocese and SJN is not at that number
        - Goal is to keep coming up with ideas for long term fundraising
        - Preschool enrollment has picked up- some students came from St. Mary's Edwardsville
        - There is room to add students
        - Going to be starting a search for a new principal soon
    - Four pillars were borrowed from Diocese of Witchita
        - Provides a long-term goal and vision
        - Goal: supporting schools with tithing so that no tuition for Catholic Education
        - Tithing breakdown: 8% to your parish and 2% to other charities
        - Discipleship comes FIRST and then the stewardship comes from that. "My life belongs to God, I want to give my life back to God."
    - 6 or 6:30 AM Mass in the area

    - Fr. Rob to bring to the deanery meeting to work on collaborating with other parishes
    - Canon Law puts limits on how many Masses a priest can say for a weekday and Sunday.
- Why is every Bishop in the country not doing the same thing in regards to abortion?
    - With an election coming up sometimes Bishops are having private conversations, and sometimes they are strategically waiting until after an election to make a public statement.