

Pulpit Announcement

Appeal Kick-Off Weekend

The following sample pulpit announcement is recommended for use on the kick-off weekend (February 24/25), along with the audio/video message from Bishop Barron.

You recently received a packet in the mail requesting your support of the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a gift, and know that your gift will help fund critical ministries that benefit the roughly 34,000 Catholic households and countless others throughout southern Minnesota.

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus compares his followers to light, saying we “are the light of the world,” unable to be hidden. No one puts a lamp under a bowl because a lamp is designed to help people see in dark places. Christ’s words and actions showed the true nature of the world around Him.

The theme for the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal is **You are the Light of the World**. Being the light means doing your best to live each day on purpose and in a way that’s pleasing to God. It means showing kindness and compassion to others and yourself. It’s about looking for opportunities to be more like Jesus, to lift others up, and to do the right thing.

The Appeal-funded ministries provide ample opportunities for you and others to be a **Light in this world**. . Whether it be through Catholic school education, training and support for catechists involved in parish religious education programs, youth ministry, college campus ministry, lifelong faith formation for all ages, retreats and pilgrimages, and so much more, you make it possible through your sacrificial gift.

Please note that all gifts will be used solely for the restricted purposes of the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. The Appeal supports specific ministries and programs of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

Now is the time to come together as the Body of Christ to support the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Each of us plays an important role, as St. Paul names us the “ligaments of the body,” and we, through our support, bring about the Church’s growth by building it up in love.

Give the most generous gift you can. We need not only your financial gifts, but your prayers as well, in order that we may fulfill our parish goal for the Appeal. Thank you for your support, and let us pray:

“Heavenly Father, may we become Your disciples through our support of the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings of our lives. We cherish the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that each member of our universal Church family makes to build up Christ’s Church in love. We ask you, Lord, to send us forth in this spirit of love to serve our communities and our world with open hearts. Amen.”