

Week 8 – For an increase in faith-filled men who hear God’s gentle call to the priesthood. By our support of vocations through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, may they be encouraged to explore a lifetime of service to God’s people in the Church. **We pray to the Lord.**

Week 9 – For the children of our parish and in our diocese, that we, as the Body of Christ, continue to educate the youngest among us in the faith through our Catholic schools and religious education programs, which are supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal. May we continue to take seriously this responsibility to teach and pass on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **We pray to the Lord.**

(When you see fit) – In thanksgiving for our parish’s generous support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, which ensures that the vital ministries it funds will aid us in our journey as *Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His gifts*. **We pray to the Lord.**

## Pulpit Announcement

### Appeal Kick-Off Weekend

*The following sample pulpit announcement is recommended for use on the kick-off weekend (February 26-27), along with an audio/video mini story.*

You recently received a packet in the mail requesting your support of the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a gift, and know that your gift will help fund critical ministries that benefit the 38,000 Catholic households and countless others throughout southern Minnesota.

St. Paul reminds us in Ephesians that we are to “live the truth in love and grow in every way into Him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love.” [Ephesians 4: 15-16]

The theme, *Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts*, emphasizes the importance of using our time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of our wider church community. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we all possess different gifts and talents for furthering the ministry of Christ and His Church. God’s generous gifts should be returned to Him with increase by sharing the peace and joy of Christ with all those we encounter.

The Appeal-funded ministries provide ample opportunities for you and others to be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts. Whether it be through social outreach programs that help families in crisis,

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.

[Now you may want to briefly share some examples of how your parish directly benefits from Appeal-funded ministries. Refer to the *Appeal-Funded Ministries* section in this guidebook.]

Please note that all gifts will be used solely for the restricted purposes of the 2022 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 2022 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.”

## Bulletin Announcements

A number of bulletin announcements are available for you to use. To retrieve the announcements, go to the Appeal website, <https://catholicismn.org/parish-resources>. The following is a sampling of available announcements. Whether you prefer to use the provided announcements or create your own, please include the official Appeal logo, which is also available on the website for download.

## Mini Stories

Select 1-2 witness testimonial mini stories each week to include in your bulletin. Here is a sampling of the mini stories. Visit the website to view all the mini stories available to you.

The following people and ministries are featured in this year’s mini stories:

- Pastoral Perspective - Fr. Edward McGrath