

# Pulpit Announcement

## Appeal Kick-Off Weekend

*The following sample pulpit announcement is recommended for use on the kick-off weekend (February 18-19), along with the audio/video message from Bishop Barron.*

You recently received a packet in the mail requesting your support of the 2023 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a gift, and know that your gift will help fund critical ministries that benefit the roughly 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, **Building Christ’s Church - Fulfilling Christ’s Mission**, 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 in **Building Christ’s Church - Fulfilling Christ’s Mission**. 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 2023 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 2023 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.”