## **Announcements & Bulletin/Web Post Text**

**January 2 - January 17 Thank You Weekends**

*Pulpit Announcement & Bulletin/Web Post Text*

(Parish Name) offers great thanks to everyone who generously made a sacrificial gift to the 2020 Annual Pastoral Appeal in an especially challenging year for all. Your faithful support has helped our parish and brought thousands within our diocese closer to God through the ministries, programs, and services funded through APA. We are blessed to have such caring and compassionate parishioners.

(if applicable) And of course, through your participation, our parish achieved goal! **Thank you!**

With this New Year comes the launch of the 2021 APA in our parish, and we hope that you will consider supporting this year’s effort as we pray for the good works we do in Christ’s name as well as those who serve through our larger Church ministries.

**January 23/24 Kickoff/Prayer Weekend**

*Pastor/Celebrant Announcement*

I wish to take a moment to thank all of you for your prayer, participation and generosity to our parish. This is a place where we come to seek salvation, where we feel comfortable, yet we understand we have to give of our time, talent and treasure to keep it active and vibrant, and to preserve it for those who come after us.

This year the Annual Pastoral Appeal is themed: *Hope in the Lord.* This past year has been challenging for so many. Now, more than ever, we need to recognize we are part of a larger diocesan family and that together, we are a people of hope who bring hope. So please start with prayer.

Pray for the success of the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal.

Pray for our parish and our diocese, that those in need of charity, service, formation, and education will be assisted by us with God’s promise of love and mercy.

Pray that by our witness and courageous response, those in need will know the same comfort and hope that we have in our hearts and lives.

Whether you know it or not, our parish benefits from the ministries of our diocese. Thousands of individuals also benefit from the services and outreach funded through the Appeal. In the coming weeks, you will receive an invitation from Bishop Parkes to participate in the 2021 APA. Please review the brochure that is included, which displays the good works of our local Church made possible by APA.

Every gift makes a difference. Our Commitment Weekend is in three weeks. Please come prepared to help give the hope of Jesus to someone in need through a gift to the Appeal. Thank you, and may God continue to bless you.

*Pulpit Announcement*

We are an amazing faith family with more than 300,000 Catholics worshiping within the 79 parishes of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Each parish and thousands of people in need of Christ’s mercy benefit from the shared services and ministries funded through individual donations to the Annual Pastoral Appeal. We are a people who ***Hope in the Lord***. By giving to APA, we reach beyond ourselves and our parish, and extend that hope to thousands through the ministries, programs and services that enrich a Christ-centered way of life. Our APA Commitment Weekend is in two weeks. Please come prepared to participate and stand strong in our Catholic faith.

*Bulletin/Web Post Text*

Bishop Parkes has mailed all parishioners an invitation to participate in the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA). Please review the brochure that comes with the mailing and learn more about the good works of our local Church made possible by APA.

This year the theme for APA is: ***Hope in the Lord,*** a message that states who we are and how our hope gives us strength. In the last year, our parish has witnessed the saving grace hope can be when faced with immense difficulty. Our people have demonstrated that by refocusing on our hope in our Lord, we can all make a difference to someone less fortunate.

Giving to the Annual Pastoral Appeal is an additional way we can extend hope to others. Through APA, we reach beyond ourselves and our parish, and extend hope to thousands through the ministries, programs and services that enrich a Christ-centered way of life. To learn more about how our diocesan ministries continue serving in Christ’s name, visit our diocesan website at [www.dosp.org/](https://www.dosp.org/2020ministryupdate) or follow our diocese on social media @DioStPete and discover something new about our local Church outreach.

Together, let’s pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our journey and bestow His grace upon us as we extend that hope to others. Our parish Commitment Weekend is on February 6 and 7. Please bring your commitment card from home or pick-up an in-pew pledge envelope at Mass and come prepared to participate and courageously be part of the Good Works of our diocese.

**January 30/31 Clergy Support/Education Weekend**

*Pastor/Celebrant Announcement*

(Option 1) By now you should have received an invitation from Bishop Parkes to participate in the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal. Next week, we join with him and all our sisters and brothers throughout the Diocese to give thanks for what we have received and to offer hope to those we encounter.

The Annual Pastoral Appeal provides each of us with the opportunity to touch the lives of others with love and charity. Outreach efforts funded by the appeal help people struggling with homelessness, life and justice issues. It helps provide awareness and assistance for those that encounter racism and celebrates diversity. APA funds the promotion of Vocations, and our men studying for the priesthood, permanent diaconate and religious life. It provides for the assistance to youth and young adult ministers for development and spiritual enrichment, supports the advancement of our diocesan communications and radio ministry to evangelize far and wide, and offers opportunities for people of all ages looking to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

The brochure that is included with the packet mailed to you highlights some of the ministries, programs and services supported by your Annual Pastoral Appeal gift.

I know 2020 was a difficult year for many. I pray we emerge from it stronger, committed to bringing the light of hope in any way we can.

For those of you who have previously supported APA, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. You have helped our parish tremendously with this financial responsibility and while you may not have personally seen the joy felt by the thousands of people helped through your gift, I want to assure you that your gift has transformed lives. I pray you will be able to make a gift again this year.

For those who haven’t given in the past, if you are financially able, I challenge you to accept the invitation this year and help bring hope to someone searching for Christ’s mercy.

I ask all of you reflect on the blessings that you have been given and pray about how you can use your gifts to be a witness of God’s presence in our larger community. Next week, our parish will be conducting our Commitment Weekend in-pew collection for the Annual Pastoral Appeal. I pray that together we will rise above the difficulties of the last year, and faithfully demonstrate our charity to those in need.

(Option 2) I want you to know that I support the Annual Pastoral Appeal and know that this is an opportunity for each Catholic to touch the lives of others we may never know with love and charity. Gifts to APA benefit our parish as well as individuals who may be struggling with homelessness, or life and justice issues. Our gifts provide awareness and assistance for those that encounter racism and together we can celebrate diversity. Through one gift, we help support of Vocations, our men studying for the priesthood, permanent diaconate and religious life. We will also help to provide for the assistance to youth and young adult ministers for development and spiritual enrichment and the advancement of our diocesan communications and radio ministry to evangelize far and wide. Our gifts will contribute to opportunities for people of all ages looking to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

I know 2020 was a difficult year for many. I pray we emerge from it stronger, committed to bringing the light of hope in any way we can. I ask all of you reflect on the blessings that you have been given and pray about how you can use your gifts to be a witness of God’s presence in our larger community. Next week, our parish will be conducting our Commitment Weekend in-pew collection for the Annual Pastoral Appeal. I pray that together we will rise above the difficulties of the last year, and faithfully demonstrate our charity to those in need.

*Pulpit Announcement*

All registered parishioners have been mailed an invitation to participate in the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal from Bishop Parkes. This year’s APA theme is ***Hope in the Lord***. Our Commitment Weekend collection is next week. Your generous gift or pledge to the Annual Pastoral Appeal on behalf of our parish will help us reach our goal and provide support for the ministries, programs and services that are essential to continue God’s work in our diocese, both now and for the future. Please spend some time in prayer to decide on the sacrifice you can make to give hope to those who are less fortunate. Be a witness of God’s love with your gift.

*Bulletin/Web Post Text*

***Did you know…***

This past year has been challenging for many, but our diocesan ministries have adapted and pushed through boundaries to offer safe, in person services as well as creative ways to support, train and provide outreach virtually for our parishes, schools and the greater community.

+ **Did you know** our Vocations Office has innovative discernment events like Zoom Chats with seminarians and live streaming Abundance Holy Hours for vocations? This fall we have seven seminarians, and through their creative efforts, we look forward to more in the next year!

+ **Did you know** the Campus Ministry at USF maintained their in-person freshmen welcome activities, sent 10 students to a missionary leadership conference prior to classes starting in the fall, hosted 12 small group Bible studies in-person and virtually, and celebrated the first Mass of Fr. Joshua Bertrand, our newly ordained priest who also served as a past president of the Catholic Student Union?

+ **Did you know** that our Catholic schools are prepared to shift as needed between in-person and virtual classes in order to maintain safety standards for our 11,800+ students, their families and our school staff?

Take a few moments to see how our diocesan ministers have taken a time of great challenge and turned it into a time of great blessings. Visit [www.dosp.org](https://www.dosp.org/2020ministryupdate) to learn more about the ministries supported through the Annual Pastoral Appeal.

All registered parishioners have been mailed a personal invitation to participate in the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal from Bishop Parkes. Remember that APA helps to provide the physical, educational and spiritual needs of thousands that we could not serve from our parish alone. Your pledge or gift to APA on behalf of our parish funds services that are essential to advance the mission of Christ and help those in need. Our parish Commitment Weekend is next week.

**February 6/7 Commitment Weekend**

*Pastor/Celebrant/Lay Witness After Homily*

Here at (Parish Name) and throughout our diocese we have much to be grateful for. We have truly been blessed as a faith family. This past year our parishioners, parish and diocese have experienced challenges, and in some cases hardship. Even through difficult times, though, we are a people of God who place our hope in the Lord. We are starting to see a light at the end of this tunnel, and hopefully, feeling renewed with a sacred purpose of proclaiming the gospel and inviting those we encounter to join us.

I want to introduce the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA): ***Hope in the Lord***. This is our diocesan annual appeal that invites every parishioner to participate in supporting the ministries, programs and services of our local Church, which serve us in our parish and many in need outside of our parish boundaries.

As your pastor, I want to let you know that I support this appeal and the hope it provides for both our parish and for those it helps bring closer to Christ. (You may mention here the ministries, programs and services that your assessment dollars fund and that this fundraiser known as APA helps pay that assessment.)

You should have received a packet in the mail at home which includes a message from Bishop Parkes, as well as a brochure that provides information on how your donations support diocesan ministries, programs and services. More information can be found online at [**www.dosp.org**](http://www.dosp.org).

This appeal provides the means to continue the mission that Christ has entrusted to us: to serve, to educate, to care for the poor, and to be a beacon of hope for all. We are all invited to make a gift, a courageous gift, that demonstrates how as disciples we are living the gospel and sharing it with those we encounter. Now more than ever, it is vital for us to do what we can, when we can. To act as a people who put their faith in God and do good works in his name. I am asking you to make a commitment to the appeal today.

This appeal is based on equal sacrifice, not equal giving. I cannot know how this past year has affected every family, and therefore, I cannot ask everyone to consider the same size gift. What I can do is ask is for all to pray and make a gift that is right for them. I know from personal experience that it is easier to make a gift of sacrifice if you can spread it out, rather than make a full, one-time gift. Can you consider a gift of $25, $40 or $50 each month for the rest of this year? That amount will equal a pledge of $250, $400 or $500 by the end of the year.

As you think about what you will give, remember, this gift is in addition to your offertory giving not in place of. Also, please know I know that everyone will do their very best to fulfill their pledges, and that is all we ask - that you do your best.

If last year taught us anything, we should know by now that unexpected things happen, and you may need to change your pledge. That’s ok. If a change is needed, it can be made. And if that change is an increase, well, that is ok, too.

For those who have never given, it is vital to understand their participation matters. It is easy, when surrounded by so many people, to think that no one will notice if you don’t participate. But each gift makes a difference, and it is noticed. It is noticed by the:

- 9,000+ homeless served by Catholic Charities at Pinellas Hope

- the 150 youth who participate in the Good Samaritan Project, making their communities stronger

- the 100,000 who tune in to Spirit FM, our Catholic radio station to hear uplifting messaging and programming

- the 15 men in formation to become priests at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

At this point, I ask everyone to make their commitment over the next few minutes.

For those of you who have already made a gift or pledge by sending in your pledge card that you received at home, **I thank you for your generosity** and your patience as we take a little time now to encourage others to participate.

If you did not bring your pledge card from home, please complete a pledge envelope found in your pew. Please fill in all the information on the pledge envelope clearly. The pledge envelope has a section marked “Gifts to Consider” which breaks down what 10 equal monthly payments would be, and what the total pledge will come to if all payments are completed. For example, 10 monthly payments of $30 equal a total pledge of $300.

Once you decide on the amount you want to give, fill out the giving information on the bottom left of the envelope – the area marked “Total Pledge/Amount Enclosed/Balance Due.” Also indicate if you want to make payments monthly or annually, or as one-time gift to complete your “Balance Due.”

A down payment on your pledge is not necessary or required. If you are able to make one, please do. If you can’t make a down payment, don’t let that stop you from making your pledge.

I am going to pause to give those who haven’t yet completed their commitment time to fill out their pledge forms, while I do the same. (PAUSE AND FILL OUT A PLEDGE ENVELOPE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PARISHIONERS TO DO THE SAME.)

At this time, I ask the Hospitality Ministers/Ushers to pick up all pledge envelopes, including those pledge cards received at home that have been brought in today (or have parishioners bring them to the altar). **Thank you** once again for listening with an open heart. All gifts are an act of courage and in a few weeks when the active phase of the APA concludes, I know we will have done our part as a parish family to live the Gospel through the Annual Pastoral Appeal.

*Bulletin/Web Post Text*

Today is our Commitment Weekend for the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal: ***Hope in the Lord.***  All parishioners in our 79 parishes and missions are asked to join Bishop Parkes in making a pledge or gift for the benefit of each parish, and more importantly, for the many in need throughout the five counties of our diocese.

Every gift is valuable. Sometimes it is hard to envision how one gift could make a difference when we have so many families throughout our diocese, but it does. Every person in every parish, when united, can advance the mission of Christ. No one person can do everything, but every person can do something. Our focus is not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.

We are a people who place our **Hope in the Lord**, and all are asked to help those in need find that hope as well. **Thank you** in advance for continuing to support our parish and our diocesan faith family in so many ways.

**February 13/14 Follow-Up Weekend**

*Pulpit Announcement*

Every parishioner can fully participate in the mission of our Catholic Church and the continued works of Jesus Christ by participating in the Annual Pastoral Appeal. Please prayerfully consider the blessings you have been given, and the prayers answered in your times of need. If you weren’t prepared to make a commitment last week, we ask you to make a gift or pledge of support to the essential ministries, programs and services of our diocese. These diocesan outreach efforts are a true blessing to those served, fulfilling the physical, educational and spiritual needs of thousands that we could not serve from our parish alone. Gifts may be paid over the next 10 months or as a one-time gift. Every gift changes a life. Every gift can inspire hope for those we serve. Pledge envelopes are located (describe where you have the envelopes) for your convenience.

*Bulletin/Web Post Text*

**Thank you** to all responded last week to (Pastor’s Name) request to participate in the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA). Your gift is received with great humility, thanks and gratitude by the thousands of people supported through your donation.

As we journey together, let’s give thanks for the Good Works being done in Jesus’ name throughout our diocese, and take time to learn more about the 50+ ministries, programs and services we support through our APA gifts. Visit [www.dosp.org](http://www.dosp.org) today to discover something new about APA, the services it funds, and how it benefits our parish.

If you have not yet responded, please know we want and need your participation! Every gift, every prayer and every sacrifice brings hope to someone seeking the love and mercy of Christ.

**February 17 – April 4 Lenten and Easter Prayer Weekends**

*Bulletin/Web Post Text*

As we reflect on our many blessings during this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, let us be mindful to give God thanks and praise. (Pastor Name) would like to extend his personal gratitude to all who have generously supported the Good Works of our Church. As we pray on the Life, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, remembering the unconditional sacrifice He made for us and our salvation, may we remember those in most need throughout our diocese, and courageously respond with grateful hearts and generosity.

**April 10/11 2nd Request Weekend**

*Pulpit Announcement*

With renewed spirit and hearts full of love and gratitude for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we recognize we are called to serve one another with His love and mercy. For those who have made a gift or pledge to the Annual Pastoral Appeal, **thank you**. Your sacrifice will give hope to those in need throughout our diocese. For those who have not, please accept this invitation to actively participate in the mission of our Church through the Annual Pastoral Appeal. Those that are alone, sick, and homeless, those in jail and their families, those who may be having difficulty in their marriage, those seeking forgiveness and wanting to return to the Church, and those seeking a better life by following Christ, are aided and healed by the ministries, programs and services funded through APA. Envelopes can be found (describe where you have the envelopes). They may be placed in the collection basket, brought to the parish office or mailed directly to the Pastoral Center of our diocese.

*Bulletin/Web Post Text*

*Rejoice in the resurrection!* **Thank you** to the (# of gifts) households that have responded generously to the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal, bringing hope to those in need throughout our diocese. We have reached $(amount pledged) toward our goal of $(APA 2021 goal).

For all who have not yet participated, the invitation is still open to participate in the mission of our Church with a gift to the Annual Pastoral Appeal. Please prayerfully consider sharing a portion of the blessings you have received to help to advance our mission of love and mercy in Jesus’ name to uphold His kingdom here in our local Church. Every gift is needed and changes a life. You can make a one-time gift, or you can pledge an amount that is payable over several months. Envelopes can be found (describe where you have the envelopes). They may be placed in the collection basket, brought to the parish office or mailed directly to the Pastoral Center of our diocese at:

Pastoral Center

Diocese of St. Petersburg

PO Box 40200

St. Petersburg, FL 33743

**April 17– until goal is reached Update & Continued Communications**

*Pulpit Announcement*

(Option 1) I would like to update you on the progress of our 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal. Each parish contributes financially to support the physical, educational and spiritual needs of our local diocesan Church. This year, our parish’s goal is $(amount of goal). As of last week, a total of $(amount pledged) has been committed from (number of gifts) of our households.

If you have already made your gift or pledge to this year’s Appeal – **thank you**!

If you have not made your commitment, your help is still very much needed. We are striving for strong participation and to reach our financial goal. Please consider giving, and remember, no gift is too small. Every gift makes a difference. Pledge envelopes are located (describe where you have the envelopes) for your convenience.

Thank you.

(Option 2) We are continuing to support the 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal in our parish. **Thank you** to everyone who has made a gift. We are doing well, with $(amount pledged) in commitments from (number of gifts) families. Does that include you?

The priorities in our lives change from day to day, but hopefully God remains at the center of all we say and do. Our parish and God’s people throughout our diocese need your help. You may never meet those you help, or you may think you gift is too small or not needed. It is time for all of us to be part of a bigger blessing, one that transforms lives. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge to the Annual Pastoral Appeal, please give now. I assure you, every gift is needed. Please support the mission God has entrusted to you. Please make a pledge or one-time gift. Pledge envelopes are located (describe where you have the envelopes) for your convenience. Every gift, every prayer, makes a difference and changes someone’s life.

*Bulletin/Web Post Text*

(Option 1) **Thank you** to our parishioners who have responded generously with pledges and gifts in support of our 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal. Your generosity helps our parish financially support the ministries, programs and services provided by our local diocesan Church. To date, we have received $(amount pledged from (number of gifts) households toward our $(amount of goal) goal.

If you have not yet made your pledge or gift, it’s not too late! Every gift changes a life and brings hope. We want your participation and need your support. Please prayerfully consider joining your parish in this effort. Pledge envelopes are located (describe where you have the envelopes) for your convenience and can be mailed or delivered to our parish office.

(Option 2) The 2021 Annual Pastoral Appeal continues to make progress in our parish. (Number of gifts) households have responded generously with $(amount pledged) in pledges and gifts toward our goal of $(amount of goal). If you have not yet joined in, we want your participation and need your support. Please pray and respond with a gift that inspires those seeking the love and mercy of Christ. Pledge envelopes are located (describe where you have the envelopes) for your convenience and can be mailed or delivered to our parish office.

(Option 3) Our parish is filled with caring, generous people who understand and embrace the Annual Pastoral Appeal and the good that it brings to our parish and to our diocese. **Thank you** to all who have given a sacrificial gift to this year’s APA and helped us reach our parish goal of $(amount of goal). Your generosity to APA supports the mission of Jesus Christ, allowing us to bring God’s love and mercy past our parish boundaries.

While we have met our goal, the needs in our diocesan family have grown and extra assistance is gladly accepted. If you have not yet made a gift, it’s never too late. Let faith be your guide, hope be your inspiration and love inspire your action. Every gift of every size spreads the loving message of Jesus Christ. Pledge envelopes are located (describe where you have the envelopes) for your convenience and can be mailed or delivered to our parish office.