

Pastor's Script for Fall In-Pew/Commitment Weekend
(September 27, 2026)

Good evening/morning. Thank you to all parish families who have already made a commitment to this year's Catholic Ministry Appeal, as well as those who have given in past years. The ministries funded by the appeal help our parish in its own pastoral work and transform lives for thousands of people across our diocese.

I strongly believe in and support the Catholic Ministry Appeal and ministries sustained by the appeal. Every gift, no matter the amount, is important. I ask every parish family to participate in the appeal in some way. *Our parish is still striving to meet our goal for the 2026 appeal. Your participation will help us to achieve our parish goal and empower our diocese to make an incredible impact on our brothers and sisters in need.*

The 2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal theme "Children of God" calls to mind the beatitudes. Our Lord tells us that those who will be called "Children of God," are peacemakers. They are those who are merciful. They are those who are pure in heart. Brothers and Sisters, making a commitment to the Catholic Ministry Appeal allows you the opportunity to live out this call from God, and to help those in need throughout our communities by living out the beatitudes.

Please know that ALL donations collected for the Catholic Ministry Appeal are restricted to the ministries that are described in the appeal materials and on the diocesan website. Many of these ministries help our parish and local community as well. Being Catholic means that we are part of the universal church and that we have a diocesan wide parish family. Many in our diocesan family are in need, and as a diocesan church we must remain united. When we come together to provide

acts of mercy to our neighbors, we are able to share the love of Christ with everyone we encounter.

I ask you now to pause and reflect on how you can make a TRULY sacrificial commitment to this appeal, to the best of your ability. In particular, perhaps you can consider making a monthly recurring or sustaining gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal, which will ensure that our diocesan ministries continue to be supported and have the chance to grow. My goal is that our parish achieves 100% participation.

I will walk us through the giving process so that everyone can complete the form together. By going through this with you, it actually takes much less time and allows me to pace myself so we can finish in just a few minutes.

[Encourage QR Code/Online Givers]

Or if you prefer— instead of filling out the envelope, you may scan the QR code on the envelope *or on the postcards we have placed in the pews* and it will take you directly to the appeal giving page. If using a QR Code, you may use this time now to enter your recurring gift or pledge amount and payment information while others are completing the paper envelope. Online gifts are safe, secure, and easy. On the giving page you have the option to set up recurring monthly payments for this year.

NOTE: THIS SECTION BELOW FOR THOSE WRITING THE ENVELOPE MAY BE SIMPLIFIED TO ASK PARISHIONERS TO FILL IN THEIR NAME, ADDRESS, PARISH NAME, AND SUSTAINING GIFT OR PLEDGE AMOUNT AND THEN ALLOW THEM SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THEM DO THIS BEFORE THE USHERS COLLECT THE IN-PEW ENVELOPES.

For those filling out an envelope: Please complete the section with your name, spouse's name (if applicable), address and phone number. Please also

provide your email address. Also, please clearly write your name, and address on the front of the envelope also, so we can more easily identify your envelope.

(Pause a few seconds to allow time for this)

If you have already contributed to the Catholic Ministry Appeal by mail or online, please write in “Already Given This Year” on a blank space. To avoid duplication of your pledge, please DO NOT fill out any additional information on the form.

If you have not already made a sustaining gift or pledged by mail OR online, you may make a sustaining gift, pledge to be paid throughout the remainder of the year, or a one-time gift by filling out this envelope or using the QR Code on your smartphone. Making a SUSTAINING GIFT is encouraged as it allows us to make a sacrificial gift that can sustain our ministries on an ongoing, monthly basis. When you make a pledge and do not provide credit card or automatic withdrawal information, you may receive monthly reminder statements until your pledge is paid in full. You may also go online to make payments to your pledge. Please provide credit card or automatic withdrawal information for sustaining gifts.

Please refer to the top of the envelope and check the box or write in the amount of your sustaining gift, pledge or one-time gift in the space provided. Please be sure to check the box to indicate if you wish to make a continual monthly sustaining gift, or a pledge to conclude at year end. *Parishioners who contribute \$100 or more monthly as a **sustaining gift** are part of the **St. Joseph’s Sustaining Giver Society**.*

(Pause as above)

Now, please select a payment option, and if using a credit card or automatic withdrawal, please provide that information.

If you wish to include a check now, please select the check option and stuff into the envelope. You may also include cash if you desire.

You may scan the QR code on the envelope at any time to make your gift right now on the Catholic Ministry Appeal Giving Page.

(Pause 3 seconds)

Please write the name of our parish on the line provided on the bottom right of the contact information section, so that we will receive the proper credit for your donation.

(Pause 3 seconds)

Finally, tear off the attached form using the perforation, fold and stuff into the envelope. You may now seal the envelope. On the front panel of the envelope, please write your name and address in the space provided. Please, write clearly so that we can easily identify your envelope. Now the Ushers will come by and collect your completed envelopes.

(Pause a few seconds)

On behalf of Bishop Parkes and myself, but most especially on behalf of the people in our diocese who will benefit from your compassionate gift, I thank you for your commitment to the Catholic Ministry Appeal. May God bless you.