



2021 CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL

The weekend of February 20 - 21 is designated as Commitment Sunday for the annual Catholic Services Appeal. As a reminder, the purpose of the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is to help provide funding necessary to carry out the mission of our diocese, namely to fulfill our call to serve the people of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The CSA supports numerous diocesan services and ministries, some of which attends to needs that are beyond the

scope of any individual parish. Some exist for the sole purpose of assisting parishes in their mission to teach, evangelize, and provide good liturgical experiences. *It is important that we, the people of our diocese recognize both aspects of the appeal.* This appeal is for the many services provided by the diocesan offices.

I ask that you please pray and ask God how you may be a part of Christ's continuing mission in this diocese. I do believe each of us has been, or will be, touched by one or more of the ministries offered. **These ministries/programs simply need and deserve our support so they may continue to touch the lives of many in good ways.** I believe I do have a responsibility to give back to our diocese that has given so much for so many. I hope you feel the same. St. Luke Parish has had a fine tradition of graciously supporting the diocesan ministries. Stewardship is, and always will be, the recognition of giving back to God through time, talent, and financial resources for all that God has given to us. For the year 2021, St. Luke Parish has been assessed \$59,218.00. Monetary donations from parishioners help to relieve this assessment. *Any money that is donated above the assessment, of course, stays within the parish.*

On a practical note, I do hope we are able to surpass our diocesan goal as monies that remain in our parish will be used to help us reach our "in-house" goal. Pastoral Council has met on several occasions to discuss our needs as we move forward, remaining close to and driven by our Parish Mission Statement, *"St. Luke Parish is a Catholic Community who strives to be welcoming, evangelistic, and of service so that all may experience the love of Jesus Christ."*

The area we feel needs to be addressed at this time is the continuation of building and expanding the use of technology in our church/parish space to maximize our ability to reach people and bring to them the Good News of Jesus.

As you know, we have been taking steps to bring adult Faith Formation Scripture/Theology lessons not only via email but also once a month on Sunday morning between the 9:00 and 11:30 Masses. Sr. Carmen's Faith Formation has been utilizing the church space throughout the year as she meets with parents, students, and staff. The MYRACLE Team from Mercyhurst University utilizes the church/parish space for Confirmation preparation sessions with our high school students. Our Youth Ministry is growing and utilizes the church/parish space. R.C.I.A. utilizes the space. And, of course, we utilize the space for worship services of all kinds, i.e. Mass, Penance Celebrations, etc.

Our goal is to continue to grow and expand what we offer...to research and discover new ways of introducing technology that can help us maximize our ability to reach people and bring them the Good News of Jesus.

This, of course, will take time to unfold. What is needed now is to have the necessary means/equipment to bring Wi Fi into the church space. We are definitely limited in what we can do in the church space without it. Pastoral Council believes, as I do too, this is the proper and prudent way to begin.

The monies raised to help bring in the livestream equipment has not gone unnoticed. It has made a tremendous difference and I thank you again for your support. I believe monies raised to help us expand the installation and use of technology in our church/parish space will also make a tremendous difference.

One final note...we have not forgotten about last year's goal of creating a "welcome space" in the back of the church. It's coming, but for obvious reasons we had to put it on hold during the pandemic.

Please help us reach and surpass our goal. \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month would be greatly appreciated. When you break it down, that comes to twenty-five or fifty cents per day. When you look at it that way, it is a reasonable request for programs that provide so much good. If you are able to provide more that would also be greatly appreciated.

I will ask God to help guide me to make a pledge that is feasible. I ask that you might do the same. I also ask that those who were not able to make a pledge last year...perhaps you might be able to make one this year.

I thank you for taking the time to read this. Asking for money is never easy yet is part of the reality of who we are as the people of God. Please pray that God will guide you to do what you can to help in this appeal. Most of all, please pray for success of the appeal, as the many services and ministries depend upon its outcome.

Peace,
Fr. John



Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) donations are designated to fund the projects, ministries and departments of the Diocese of Erie. As done last year, CSA funds raised in the 2021 appeal will be placed in a designated account and used exclusively to support the initiatives and ministries of the diocese. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the Diocese is the work of the church. Thank you for prayerfully and joyfully supporting this work.

YES! I want to help spread the faith and build the church in the Diocese of Erie with my gift to the Catholic Services Appeal.

Please send me pledge reminders: Monthly:
Every 2 Months:
Two Times (May & Nov):

Please send my pledge reminders by e-mail

Email Address: _____
(please print clearly)

Name: _____ (please print clearly)

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Total Pledge Amount: \$ _____
Amount Enclosed Now (optional): \$ _____

Suggested Monthly Pledge	
Monthly Gift:	Total (10 Months):
\$100	\$1,000
\$ 50	\$ 500
\$ 25	\$ 250
\$ 10	\$ 100

Please make your check payable to St. Luke Church and in your check memo section write CSA.

You may place your pledge in an envelope and mail to: St. Luke Church
421 East 38th Street
Erie, PA 16504

You may also place it in the collection basket at Mass or drop it off at the church office.