



## St. Roch Catholic Church

25022 Gibraltar Road,  
Flat Rock, Michigan 48134  
(734) 782-4471

April, 2019

Dear Parishioner of St. Roch,

The annual Catholic Service Appeal, 2019 is here and now in its 38<sup>th</sup> year. In light of our being called to be joy-filled missionaries of the Gospel and challenged to unleash it in our everyday living – at home, work, in play, this CSA, '19 is an annual appeal to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

When we support the CSA, we support a variety of ministries, programs and services that our local Church of Detroit offers, as it renews our personal commitment made this Easter through our - profession of faith.

One of the many ministries that we support through our CSA donations is certification of our catechists, who offer their time and talent in our religious education programs. As the Archdiocese of Detroit (AOD) wishes that all those who instruct our children be certified catechists, seminars and workshops are offered to our catechists to move towards this certification. Our CSA money is used to present the topics, provide current materials, videos and/or spokespersons as well as refreshments. This also includes all teachers who teach within our parish run Catholic day school programs.

The annual CSA also helps the staff and me in all areas of parish life – worship, education, administration, finance and maintenance – offering skilled, if not expert advice to situations that arise. These individuals are available to us simply through a phone call or an email sent to them.

I want to reiterate how I personally benefitted so much from AOD personnel in the immediate past years of merging two parishes. Professionals who had been hired by the AOD assisted the transition teams and me, in the aspects of merging of two parish communities and in the ultimate sale of one these properties. The AOD staff of people that were available to me and others were at our finger tips, being at times, as I stated above, just a phone call away. This assistance is all made possible through donations given to the annual CSA.

Further, the central offices of the AOD again sponsored by our CSA dollars can assist in securing documentation for so many in varied areas of life, from immigrants needing identification to securing an annulment, so as to help these people be an integral part of our Church. (Note: there is no fee or money involved in applying for an annulment within the Archdiocese of Detroit – our CSA dollars provide for this process).

While the CSA is a mandatory tax on each parish, I find it to be a wholesome tax, for I stated above, I have seen and continue to see how the CSA dollars benefit many, myself included.

I am inviting you to contribute to this annual CSA. We have been given a target based on financial calculations that reflect our income as a parish and the medium income of the people in our parish. This years' target has been decreased by some eight hundred dollars to \$55,5531.00 as the CSA continues to go through changes and revisions. (Note, this is also the third decrease in our parish CSA in the past four years). This goal is attainable by our parish. In fact we achieved our goal for last years' CSA and have received refunds in this calendar year. Having reached our target and exceeded it is to be praised and I thank you, those who contributed in helping us reach that goal.

And so a suggested contribution is \$200.00 per family. Cash, check, credit and debit card payments are accepted. On-line giving is also available @ <http://strochfr.aodcsa.org>. A one-time payment or a pledge payment plan over 9 months or quarterly can be utilized in your giving.

Note, well, if we do not meet the expected goal the shortfall, it is ours to pay, as it is a mandatory tax. And that shortfall comes out of our day-to-day financial operations. And that can create a burden if funds are not available or have to be reduced to meet the CSA shortfall. I have seen the effects of this burden in my immediate past years and it greatly impairs or weakens the work of a parish. It creates much stress which we all try to avoid.

And so, while we are a solvent parish and tithe, I am *dependent* on you, and your families to donate to this annual appeal in addition to what is asked of you in offering through Sunday envelopes, Christmas and other charities or causes. Note, our parish percentage of folks contributing to the CSA is around 35 – 37% of the registered parishioners.

As I stated earlier, we can achieve this particular target, knowing that as we do, we are aiding the local church of Detroit in its mission. But it has to be a greater percentage of the whole parish contributing, not any one or relying on others to pick up the slack.

So please give prayerful thought to how you may be a part of this CSA '19, knowing that you are playing an integral part through your contribution.

Please use the *CSA information card* attached (and below) or use the *CSA envelope in your monthly envelope packet* and drop it in the collection basket at Mass. (You can also mail it in or drop it off at the parish office. Additional envelopes are available in the back of the church for your contribution to this annual appeal). Browse the parish website, [www.strochflatrock.com](http://www.strochflatrock.com) for more additional information about the CSA.

Included in this mailing is a listing of how the CSA dollars are so designated throughout the ministries of the Archdiocese; it is a fiscal reporting of the immediate past years' receipts of CSA money.

  
Thank you. Fr. Ray Lewandowski, Pastor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_



My Gift to the Archdiocesan Catholic Services Appeal is as follows:

Amount of Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Suggested Gift Amount **\$200.00**)

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to:

Balance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

St. Roch Parish **CSA**

Please send a reminder envelope as indicated:

9 monthly payments (starting in July)

Quarterly - July/Oct/Jan/April

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(This Gift is not legally binding)