**2023 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL**

**HOMILY TALKING POINTS\***

* Emphasize the theme for this year’s campaign—
	+ - **Do This in Memory of Me**
* Tie the message of the Appeal in with the Gospel readings:
	+ **Sunday, October 8** – “*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” God entrusts his vineyard to those who will produce good fruit. When we share our blessings with others, we are building the Kingdom of God. Our gifts to the Appeal are an offering of thanks to our Savior, Jesus Christ.*
	+ **Sunday, October 15** – *“Some ignored the invitation and went away.” God invites us to join Him at the eternal celebration in Heaven. Will we ignore the invitation? Or will we answer and devote our whole selves, our very lives to Him?*
* Point to yourself and remind parishioners that without the Catholic Services Appeal, we would not have our priests! Funding for seminarian education is provided by the CSA. We are blessed to have a significant increase in the number of seminarians this year! How wonderful! However, this will require a budget of approximately $1 million dollars! We must have your help to make this possible.
* Most of us are not able to drop everything and volunteer full time for the Church, nor are we qualified to provide such services as prison ministry, sacramental preparation, refugee resettlement, catechist certification, and many more. But we can, through our financial contributions, support the work of the Church in areas such as these. The Catholic Services Appeal is a way that we, as a parish, can get our individual “fingerprints” on these specific ministries that aren’t feasible at the parish level, but that we support and from which we benefit!
* Without funding from the Catholic Services Appeal, the Catholic mission parishes in southern Kentucky in largely Protestant areas, would not be able to sustain their parish and ministries. We are part of the Body of Christ, which extends beyond our own parish to the larger community, throughout the Archdiocese.
* The annual Catholic Services Appeal provides a way to show our love of God and neighbor, participating in the good works of the Church by financially supporting Archdiocesan programs and services that serve our parish and other parishes as well. A number of Archdiocesan ministries have a direct impact on us here at this parish. (Mention some of the programs/services your parish receives, such as faith formation, youth ministry, lay ministry training, safe environment training, marriage preparation, etc.)
* As Catholics, we set aside a portion of our income every year to carry out the work of God in our community and to care for those in need. This is a once-per-year appeal from the Archbishop to serve the needs of everyone in the Archdiocese. All gifts (large and small) come together to make a big impact!
* Please remember that the Catholic Services Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you are encouraged to make a gift payable in installments. We are one team, made up of 110 parishes throughout the Archdiocese!

\*Compiled by the Archdiocese of Louisville Catholic Services Appeal Pastor Committee - 2023