**2025 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL**

**HOMILY TALKING POINTS\***

* Emphasize the theme for this year’s campaign— **Giving Hope to All**
* Tie the message of the Appeal in with the Gospel readings:
	+ **Sunday, October 5** – “*Faith the size of a mustard seed.”* Jesus reminds us that the smallest seed grows into something much larger. Even small acts of faith or generosity can have a significant impact! Our gifts to the Appeal are given in such a way – a heartfelt offering, of whatever size we are able, that will give hope to others in a multitude of ways.
	+ **Sunday, October 12** – *“Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?”* All 10 of the lepers were given the gift of healing but only one returned to thank Jesus for this tremendous gift. By expressing his gratitude to God, the Samaritan found salvation. Our salvation also is found in recognizing the gifts we have been given, knowing to whom we must offer our thanks and sharing those gifts with others.
* 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 $1.44 million dollars! We must have your help to make this possible. Do any of the retired priests ever help out at your parish when there is a need? CSA provides funding for our retired priests, many of whom remain very busy assisting where needed.
* 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, marriage counseling, 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, tribunal assistance, 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 109 parishes throughout the Archdiocese!

\*Compiled by the Archdiocese of Louisville Catholic Services Appeal Pastor Committee - 2025