**2025 Bishop’s Appeal Pastor’s Bulletin Messages**

Bishop’s Appeal Kickoff Weekend – Feb. 1-2, 2025

**Bringing Hope to the World through our Faith in Jesus**

*“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” – Luke 2:30-32*

Dear Friends,

In today’s Gospel, we hear about the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. According to the law of the time, Mary and Joseph were to take Jesus to Jerusalem to be presented in the temple. Upon their arrival, the priest Simeon takes Jesus into his arms. As Simeon holds the Son of God, he praises God and declares how his eyes have seen salvation. This salvation is not only for Simeon, but for all people. Simeon’s proclamation of his hope in Jesus is a great example of how we, too, should strive to be *Bringing Hope to the World*.

By discovering Jesus and sharing His hope with others, we bring hope to the world like Simeon. We see this occur right here at <<Parish Name>>. Our faith formation programs and Catholic schools help our young people discover Jesus and find hope through a friendship with Him. Our deacon brings hope to our parish, walking with so many parishioners on their faith journey. Eucharistic ministers bring Jesus to parishioners at the Mass every weekend. Catholic Charities counselors help parishioners battling depression, anxiety, or marriage struggles find healing and hope through Jesus. All of this and more is possible because of generous members of our parish sharing their gifts to the Bishop’s Appeal.

Please prayerfully consider making your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal to help these Diocesan ministries share Christ’s love. Contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundation.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.org/give) to give today.

Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and for your helping more parishioners at <<Parish Name>> and beyond find hope in Jesus!

Bishop’s Appeal 2nd Weekend – Feb. 8-9, 2025

**“Do Not Be Afraid”: How We Are *Bringing Hope to the World***

*“Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.’ When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.” – Luke 5:10-11*

Dear Friends,

After fishing all night, Simon Peter, James, and John must have been tired. Imagine how you would have felt if you were them. Your body would ache from casting large, heavy nets into the sea over, and over, and over again. You’d be exhausted from staying awake all night. And, you’d be frustrated: not a single fish made it into your net.

Jesus saw the tired, frustrated men and instructed them to cast their nets into the sea once more. Simon Peter felt it was impossible. But because Jesus instructed him, Simon Peter and the men casted their nets. The nets tore as hundreds of fish swam into them, to the point where their boats were starting to sink. With great fear and shame, Simon Peter told Jesus to leave him. He felt undeserving to be among Jesus. Yet, Jesus said, “Do not be afraid.” After witnessing the power and compassion of the Son of God, the three men gave up everything to follow Jesus and bring hope to the world. We are called to do the same.

Just like Jesus and His disciples, our diocese is answering the call. Parish faith formation programs and Catholic schools help our young people find hope in a friendship with Jesus. Catholic Charities counselors are *Bringing Hope to the World*. With counseling services for mental health struggles, debt management, adoption and parenting support, and marriage and family difficulties, counselors help people hear Jesus’s words: “Do not be afraid.” Jesus is their hope today and always. This and even more is made possible in our parish and our diocese because of your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal.

Please prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts to the 2025 Bishop’s Appeal. For just $5 a month, you can help diocesan ministries share the hope of Jesus with members of our parish. Thank you for answering Jesus’ call to follow Him and share His hope with others!

To give to the Appeal, contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundation.com/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.com/give) to make your gift.

Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and for your support of <<Parish Name>>.

Bishop’s Appeal 3rd Weekend – Feb. 15-16, 2025

**Bringing Hope to the World through our Faith in Jesus**

*“‘Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.” – Luke 6:20-23*

Dear Friends,

In today’s Gospel, Jesus shares the Beatitudes with us. The Beatitudes are an incredible source of hope. By living with humility, obedience, and gratitude, an abundance of blessings will follow. This is how we can find eternal hope in Him while sharing Jesus with others. This is what *Bringing Hope to the World* is all about. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal helps essential diocesan ministries share hope throughout our Diocese, especially in our faith formation programs.

Parish faith formation programs walk with children on their faith journey and introduce them to their source of hope: Jesus. Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal provides training, resources, and support to equip thousands of catechists with the tools they need to share Jesus with our youth.

Your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal also supports the formation of deacons, so they can walk with our parishioners on their faith journey. Missionary disciples are formed through Entrust Retreats and the Missionary Leadership Institute. This and even more is made possible because of your generosity to the Bishop’s Appeal.

To give to the Appeal, contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundation.com/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.com/give) to make your gift.

Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and for your support of <<Parish Name>>.

Bishop’s Appeal 4th Weekend – Feb. 22-23, 2025

**Bringing Hope to the World through our Faith in Jesus**

*“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” – Luke 6:36*

Dear Friends,

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls on us to be merciful to others. Mercy can be difficult to share at times, especially if we, too, are hurting. However, by following Jesus, we find hope in Him and can share His mercy with all those we encounter.

I see people in our parish finding hope in Jesus every day. When a couple struggles in their marriage, the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities counselors helps that couple find hope for their future. As a young boy starts his education in Catholic school, he finds friendship in the greatest source of hope: Jesus. Our Eucharistic ministers are trained to share the body of Jesus Christ with all our parishioners.

All of this and more is possible in our parish because of your support of the Bishop’s Appeal.

To give to the Appeal, contact our parish office, use the pledge card you received at home, or visit the Bishop’s Appeal website at [www.catholicfoundation.com/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.com/give) to make your gift.

Thank you for your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal and for your support of <<Parish Name>>.