

**This is Kingdom Work**

**Parish Resource Manual**

**2023-2024**

**Stewardship and Development Office**

**5800 Weiss St ▪ Saginaw, MI 48603 ▪ 989-797-6679**

“As each one has received a special gift, use it   
to serve one another as good stewards of   
God’s varied grace.”

*1 Peter 4:10*

Hello,

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of the Diocese of Saginaw through promotion of Christ’s Mission Appeal in your parish.

This manual includes some materials that you can use for announcements and updates for bulletins, your website, social media, etc. Please feel free to use these as they are or edit them to best fit your parish culture.

You also can find additional resources, including videos, on the diocesan website at [www.saginaw.org/appeal](http://www.saginaw.org/appeal)

Do not hesitate to contact anyone on the appeal team if you have concerns or questions.

For items referring to materials or communications about the appeal, please contact the Stewardship and Development Department at 989-797-6679 or [grudolf@diosag.org](mailto:grudolf@diosag.org)

For matters about appeal payments or parish transmittals, please contact the Finance Department at 989-797-6626.

**Christ’s Mission Appeal 2023-2024 Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations.”*

*You remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in this mission of the Church. We know that all we have is received from your hand. You call us to be stewards of all you have entrusted to us.*

*Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.*

*Remind us that we are the mission of Christ.*

*Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel and caring for one another, so that the mission entrusted to us may find new and fruitful expressions that bring life and light to the world.*

~ Amen

**A note about the timing of Christ’s Mission Appeal**

There is still some confusion about the “appeal year.” Since the global pandemic forced the 2020 Christ’s Mission Appeal to autumn rather than the spring, some parishioners have questions about when the appeal launches and when it ends.

Some have found it helpful to talk about the Christ’s Mission Appeal cycle somewhat like a school year – getting into full swing in the fall and winding down by early summer.

The diocesan stewardship and development office will refer to the Christ’s Mission Appeal that launches in October 2023 as ***Christ’s Mission Appeal 2023-2024*** or in similar fashion.

**Promoting Christ’s Mission Appeal**

You are welcome to use any of the tools and suggestions in this manual or on the dedicated page on the diocesan website www.saginaw.org/appeal to assist you in communicating to your parishioners about Christ’s Mission Appeal 2023-2024.

**Play the video and/or audio message** – The 2023-2024 video and audio feature a message from Bishop Gruss and overviews of a few of the many services and ministries supported by Christ’s Mission Appeal.

**Make the case for support** – In writing and talking about Christ’s Mission Appeal, share how any of the ministries supported by the appeal affect you personally or how your parishioners benefit.

***It is also important to talk about the “larger scope” of the appeal.*** Christ’s Mission Appeal touches the lives of many, many people within your own parish boundaries and far beyond. As God’s Church, we are called to care for those who we know and those who we do not. You know your parishioners best. You may gear your messaging in the direction which you think will make the most impact.

Some people focus on the “local,” so the more you personalize the appeal, the more informed parishioners are and the more they are motivated to support it. Others will be driven to give because of the broad reach of the appeal.

**Demonstrate value to your parish** – The ministries and programs that Christ’s Mission Appeal supports would be difficult or impossible for any parish to do on its own. Some examples of this include: formation and education of seminarians; assessing schools to help them achieve academic excellence and accreditation; training of parish bookkeepers and catechists to be effective in their work/ministries.

**Personalize and localize** – Compile information about your parish’s utilization of Christ’s Mission Appeal-funded services and resources throughout the year. These things might include: parish offertory or budgeting assistance; guidance regarding music and liturgical ministry to strengthen the parish’s worship experience; welcoming a newly ordained deacon or priest who benefited from formation or seminarian education.

**Lead by example** – Your personal example of stewardship and financial support to Christ’s Mission Appeal sets the tone for your parishioners.

**Use Christ’s Mission Appeal bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements and universal prayers** – These items are intended to provide more details about how the ministries supported by Christ’s Mission Appeal touch the lives of people throughout the diocese.

**Announcements from the parish leader at Mass**

Feel free to use these below announcements (or parts of them) to aid in communicating about Christ’s Mission Appeal.

**On or before ‘Education Weekend’ (Sept. 30/Oct. 1)**

• Beginning next weekend, we will be starting a new Christ’s Mission Appeal campaign. This is the primary way that Catholics throughout the Diocese of Saginaw can support ministries that spread throughout the region. It is our call as Catholics to support the work of the Church in our own community and beyond.

Our parish assessment this year is: xxxx. This is somewhat <more/less> than it was last year. I am confident that we can meet and exceed that goal.

You will be receiving a packet of information this week from Bishop Gruss. I encourage you to read that material and prayerfully discern how you will respond to the appeal this year.

I encourage you to go to the Diocese of Saginaw website to www.saginaw.org/appeal to see more comprehensive details of the ministries that Christ’s Mission Appeal supports <<and to view this year’s video.>> (If your parish is not able to play the video.)

Play audio or video if you have the technology to do that.

**On or after ‘Commitment weekend’ (Oct. 7/8)**

• By now you should have received a letter from Bishop Gruss and a brochure and pledge card about this year’s Christ’s Mission Appeal. Please give careful consideration how you will respond and fill out the pledge card and return it to the Diocese of Saginaw or put it in the collection basket. Remember that checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Saginaw, not the parish. You can also give online by going to the Diocese website at [www.saginaw.org](http://www.saginaw.org).

• Remember, this year’s Christ’s Mission Appeal is underway. If you have already made a pledge or donation, thank you for your quick response to this appeal. If you have not, please consider a gift of some amount. Your contribution to Christ’s Mission Appeal is a way of serving our brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese.

• We are now one month (or whatever time span) into the Christ’s Mission Appeal and as of today (number of parishioners) have contributed. We need each of you to help us reach our parish assessment of $whatever is your assessment.

• This is just a reminder. If you have not made your pledge or contribution yet to Christ’s Mission Appeal, please consider doing so this week. As good stewards, we are called to share the gifts that God has given to us. Please be generous.

**Universal Prayers**

The following are samples of petitions for use during the active phase of Christ’s Mission Appeal. Please consider using a petition each weekend during the early parts of the campaign and periodically as your parish gets closer to its assessed goal.

• That God will bless our participation in Christ’s Mission Appeal as we continue to offer the love of Jesus here in the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, we pray to the Lord …

• That we understand that we touch many lives through Christ’s Mission Appeal, and that the people whose lives we touch may know Christ’s love, we pray to the Lord …

• That we may show generosity and love for one another by sharing our financial gifts for the good of the whole Church through Christ’s Mission Appeal, we pray to the Lord …

• That we may see the work of Christ’s Mission Appeal as an opportunity to extend our love and service beyond the boundaries of our parish and local community, we pray to the Lord …

• In thanksgiving for all that the Lord ha given to us, may we show our gratitude by sharing with others through our generous support of the 2023-2024 Christ’s Mission Appeal, we pray to the Lord…

• That God will grant us a generous spirit so we may see Christ’s Mission Appeal as an opportunity to practice Christian stewardship, to strengthen our families, our parish and our Diocesan community, we pray to the Lord …

• May the members of your parish respond to the opportunity to reach beyond the boundaries of our parish in love and service through Christ’s Mission Appeal, we pray …

• For an abundant outpouring of gifts in support of our seminarians, ministry formation, family resources and the many other ways that Christ’s Mission Appeal brings forth God’s kingdom today, we pray …

• As we reflect on the many blessings God has given to us, may we express our gratitude as disciples of Christ by support Christ’s Mission Appeal, we pray …

• That by supporting Christ’s Mission Appeal, our parish communities will nurture the faith in our young people and instill in them a desire to serve one another as members of the Body of Christ, we pray …

• That the faithful may give generously to Christ’s Mission Appeal in support of the priesthood and the celebration of the Sacraments within our parishes, we pray …

• That we may be the face of Jesus to others, bringing mercy to the marginalized and help to those in need through the ministries enabled by our gifts to Christ’s Mission Appeal, we pray …

**Bulletin Blurbs**

The following are samples of pieces for bulletins during the active phase of Christ’s Mission Appeal. Please consider highlighting a ministry supported by the appeal each weekend during the early parts of the campaign and periodically as your parish gets closer to its assessed goal.

• Your support of Christ’s Mission Appeal helps to support the training of lay ministers who serve in parishes throughout the Diocese of Saginaw. Education for this important ministry includes four years of theology and faith formation. Nearly 400 people, including (names of lay ministers in your parish) from our parish, serve individual parishes and communities as lay ministers.

Your gift to Christ’s Mission Appeal helps make this training and formation possible.

• Your support of Christ’s Mission Appeal helps to bring healing to the divorced. The staff of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Saginaw trains volunteers known as “advocates” to work with people who have experienced a divorce and who want to obtain a declaration of nullity.

Your gift to Christ’s Mission Appeal helps make this service possible.

• Stories about people throughout the Diocese of Saginaw sharing the love of Christ are published six times a year in Great Lakes Bay Catholic magazine. The publication, which is delivered free of charge to every registered Catholic household in the Diocese, combines features about local individuals and groups as well as guest columnists and information about events.

Your gift to Christ’s Mission Appeal supports the production and distribution of Great Lakes Bay Catholic.

• Mental health issues, stress, addictions, trauma and other emotional factors can lead to the deterioration of relationships and marriages. People from throughout the Diocese of Saginaw can access counseling and other services through Catholic Family Services.

Your gift to Christ’s Mission Appeal results in a subsidy to Catholic Family Services to provide these services.

• Keeping young people engaged in their faith and growing in understanding are important parts of strong campus ministry programs at colleges, especially at Central Michigan University. Priests and volunteers ministering on college campuses are continually working to make the Catholic faith available to students in dynamic ways, such as vibrant liturgies, involving students in ministerial leadership positions and lively discussions that focus on the teachings of the church.

This ministry and others are made possible through your gift to Christ’s Mission Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.