



St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church

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May 2019

Dear Member,

The 38th annual Catholic Services Appeal is now underway. This year's theme is *Opening Doors to Witness Christ*, embracing the renewed spiritual energy of the Holy Spirit.

Every parish of the archdiocese is required to participate in CSA 2019 to provide much-needed archdiocesan services that would not be affordable or available to us without the Appeal. Since 1982, generous gifts to the CSA have generated funds our local Church needs to support formation for seminarians, pastoral ministers, faith formation directors, youth ministers, and RCIA. CSA funds provide for the many archdiocesan departments, including Christian Service, Christian Worship, Vocations, Education, Parish Life, Safe Environments, and Communications. Please study the enclosed brochure for more detail and explanation.

I am asking each family to prayerfully consider what they can sacrifice as a Christian steward – giving back in thanksgiving for God's bountiful blessings. I am asking each household to prayerfully consider a total gift of \$300 this year. This was our goal last year, and we had a most successful campaign. Those of you who can do more, it is much appreciated.

Our parish **CSA 2019 target** is **\$207,061**, a 1.8% increase from last year. **Your support is crucial for the success of our appeal!**

- If we do not meet our target, the shortfall must be paid to the archdiocese from our general operating budget. That could necessitate program cuts.
- When we **do** meet our target, all payments in excess of \$207,061 will be returned directly to our parish, to be used in the parish. Any monies over and above our target will be returned to us without the 7% diocesan assessment. We will use these funds toward the purchase and installation of an electronic sign outside the Church on Lilley Road. This will serve as a beacon to our neighbors and passersby, announcing the many activities happening at our parish. It will invite and encourage all to come and "Ignite Your Faith."

Please complete the enclosed CSA envelope with your response; return the CSA envelope during any weekend of May. You may return it to the parish office, mail it, or place the CSA envelope in the collection basket. Pledges are encouraged, paid in nine monthly installments or in quarterly payments. One-time cash is also most welcome.

- Please seriously consider making your payments through **our online giving portal - <http://abecket.aodcsa.org>**. A quick link to this site is available on our parish and mobile website homepages (www.abecket.org.) This will expedite processing and save our parish ACH / merchant service payment fees; the Archdiocese covers those costs. If you used the online portal for 2018, you do not need to set up a new account – just enter your login name and password, and proceed to enter a new gift.
- If using the online giving portal, please carefully designate your **CSA 2019** gift for **St. Thomas a'Becket Parish, Canton**.

Our Parish Mission Statement calls us to WELCOME, WORSHIP, WITNESS. For the well-being of our parish and our archdiocesan community, thank you for doing what you can to support CSA 2019.

In Christ's Peace,

Rev. Christopher Maus, Pastor