



Dear Parish Family,

The turning of the calendar to February means the **Annual Catholic Services Appeal** is at hand. On behalf of Cardinal McElroy, I want to say 'thank you' to all of our families who made a contribution in 2025 to help the archdiocese reach its goal. Let me begin with some exciting news. Last month Cardinal McElroy invited me to serve on a committee of pastors to suggest changes to the Appeal process for future years. I'm honored by the trust he has placed in me and our parish and I welcome your input.

Now I ask you to prayerfully consider your gift to the **2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal**. If you are not familiar with the Appeal, you may wonder how it is different and separate from your offertory giving to the parish. First, the Appeal unites us with our archbishop in serving the many charitable needs of the Church of Washington. Second, the Appeal funds ministries that our parish could not sustain on our own, such as charitable organizations serving immigrants, those who are homeless, hungry and struggling financially. Funds also assist with seminarian formation, campus ministry programs, and deaf and disabilities ministries. The Appeal also supports our parish and school with funding for Catholic education, catechesis and family and pro-life ministries.

The **Annual Catholic Services Appeal** is a call to stewardship. It is not mandatory. This means that the many vibrant ministries we have in the archdiocese are the result of families such as your own who have responded generously each year with your free will offering. Let me remind you that 100% of your gift to the Appeal is restricted to the ministries designated and cannot be used for any other purpose. Furthermore, your gift will be credited towards our parish goal. You can read more about the **Be The Light: 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal** at appeal.adw.org.

February 7/8 will be our commitment weekend. I will be making my gift and ask you to join me by lending your support. Thank you in advance for your prayerful commitment to the **2026 Annual Catholic Appeal**. Your steadfast generosity is a source of inspiration for me as well as a force for good in our Church today.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Michael Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Michael Jones
Pastor