



Thanksgiving Appeal 2023

To parishioners and friends of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes:

IGNITE THE MISSION - MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE AND FAITH

I am writing this letter to you as we approach Thanksgiving weekend. It is also amid our IGNITE THE MISSION discernment journey that we have been on the last several months. I want to express my sincerest thanks to all of you for your prayers, input via our “sharing sessions” (which took place in March 2023) and those who completed the FEEDBACK FORMS. You can see the results via the **FEEDBACK FORMS GENERAL SUMMARY REPORT JUNE 2023** found at the back of our churches and at our family of parishes website (www.chathamcatholic.ca).

*HOPE
WORTH
GIVING*



SHIFTING GEARS --- FROM MAINTENANCE TO APOSTOLIC MISSION

During our IGNITE THE MISSION discernment (described in detail by our **IGNITE THE MISSION: APOSTLES FOR A NEW ERA** document that can be found at our churches and website) we have reflected on the need to shift gears. We are facing declining attendance, volunteers, financial resources along with aging buildings that cost more and more to maintain. The world has changed and what we did before to share the Good News does not work anymore. We have begun to implement a plan to shift from maintenance to becoming more mission-oriented, like the first Apostles reaching out and sharing the grace and love of Christ in the world. This requires us to embrace new methods and new opportunities to share the Gospel in a very different culture that ignores the faith. Only working together as one family will we be able to grow and thrive. The shift involves working with two major pillars that become the foundations of our change:

- (1) **FORMING DISCIPLES** - Christ seeks to form us as his disciples who are equipped with courage and understanding to live the faith every day for the sake of others. The parish community is a “school of faith” in which we learn from the Master and Teacher, Jesus Christ, on how to be his faithful followers.
- (2) **REACHING OUT TO ALL** - As faithful disciples, we are sent out to serve others, especially the poor, homeless, lost, forgotten and alone. Our mission is to bring the compassion, love, and mercy of Jesus to those who are on the fringes of our world.

Everything we do as a family of parishes is funneled into these two major pillars. Over the next several years, we will explore what it means to be a disciple (focusing on 6 Qualities of a Faithful Disciple found in the IGNITE THE MISSION document) and create opportunities for all of us to get involved in the ministries, programs and events that will not only transform us but our society today. We have now entered this time of change. We will journey together asking for the Lord’s guidance through prayer, dialogue, and action.

A TIME FOR GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time to pause, reflect and thank God for the countless blessings we have in our lives. Despite the challenges we all face, we have so many things to be thankful for. I see this in the many ministries, programs and outreach that takes place in all the churches of our family. There is a strong sense of faith that is expressed through our volunteers in caring, serving, and helping others---especially those who are in need.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

For us to grow and thrive as a faith community, we need your prayers, involvement, and financial support. Prayer always leads to action and your involvement and leadership in ministry is essential for us as a family of parishes to be a light of hope in our world.

Your ongoing financial support not only sustains our buildings and staff but enables us to provide ministries and programs that will help us form disciples who reach out to all. As you may know, for the year 2023, 15% of your regular weekly, Christmas and Easter donations are forwarded to the diocese to support various programs, ministries, and outreach that we all benefit from. **100% of your donations to our annual THANKSGIVING APPEAL stays with each church in our family of parishes.** Thank you in advance for your prayerful discernment, donation, and support.

If you cannot donate right now—then please don't. Continue to pray for our family and get involved where you can to support our ministry and outreach. ***Together as faithful disciples we as a family of parishes can offer the Risen Lord to the world. A hope very worth giving!!***

God bless!



Father John Jasica, Pastor—Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes

PS - The donation envelope included with this letter is prepared so you can simply place a stamp on it and mail in your donation (please do not mail cash). You may also bring it with you to Mass and place in the offertory basket. For other options, please see below.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES OR MAIL

As always, you can donate using your Offertory Envelopes. If you do not have envelopes, but wish to have them, simply contact the office to arrange it.

You can also mail a cheque to the office:

St. Agnes Parish, 52 Croydon St, Chatham ON, N7L 1L3
Attention: "Name of parish you are donating to."
Cheque made payable to the parish you are donating to.
Indicate on the memo line of the cheque which fund the donation is to be directed. Please DO NOT mail cash.

E-TRANSFER

Using your online banking website or app, add the parish you wish to donate to using the parish email address:

Blessed Sacrament - bsacramentparish@dol.ca

Our Lady of Victory - ourladyv@dol.ca

St. Agnes - stagnes@dol.ca

St. Joseph - stjoseph@dol.ca

St. Ursula - stursula@dol.ca

In the comment/note area, please indicate your envelope number or your address and which fund the donation is for, ie. Sunday Offertory, Thanksgiving, etc.

No password is needed as the parishes are set up for autodeposit.

PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit)

Print off the PAD form available on the website (visit www.chathamcatholic.ca and on the main menu, choose **Giving/How to Donate**) or contact the office to have one mailed to you. Fill it out and either scan the form and a void cheque and email it (using the email addresses previously listed), or mail the form and void cheque to the office (using the address previously listed). Please note: the form must be received before the 15th of the month in order to take effect the next month.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Parishioners and visitors can make donations online using a computer, laptop, tablet or any mobile device, using your Visa and Mastercard for any type of donation. This includes both one-time and recurring donations. You will have the option to choose where your donation will go, such as Regular Sunday Offertory, Thanksgiving, etc. You can also add a comment.

Simply visit our website, www.chathamcatholic.ca, on the main menu choose **Giving/How to Donate** then click on the Online Donations section. Either click on the QR code for the particular parish (boxes at the bottom with parish name below them) or using your camera on your mobile device, scan the QR code. Follow the instructions, filling in the information needed.