

April 23, 2019



Dear Friends in Christ,

The **2019 Catholic Services Appeal** (C.S.A.) has begun. Each year, Catholics from across the Archdiocese have the opportunity to join together as Christian stewards to live out the Gospel mission of our Church through this appeal. When we support the C.S.A., we support more than 100 archdiocesan ministries, programs and services, including priestly vocations, pastoral planning and leadership training, and Young Adult and Campus Ministry.

Our mandatory target this year is **\$91,918**. The goal is calculated using the three-year average of Sunday and Christmas collections and is assessed at 13%. No C.S.A. dollars have ever been-or ever will be- used to settle claims of any nature against the Archdiocese of Detroit. Included with this letter is a "C.S.A. Myths and Facts Sheet" to answer some of the common questions people have about the C.S.A.

In 2020 the parish will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary which has caused us to look carefully at the condition of our complex. The parish Finance Council has identified facilities maintenance projects that need to be addressed in the next five years, including exterior painting and roof replacement for the church, new heating/cooling units and roof replacement for the formation wing AND replacing the 35-year-old parking lot. Since every dollar you contribute helps the parish 100% either by helping us reach the mandatory target or, once over the target, by coming back to the parish for our own use *without* any tax taken out of it, we are hoping to use C.S.A. to fund these capital projects. With this in mind, if *every* parish household prays about this and gives **\$500-\$600** toward C.S.A., we should be able to accomplish all of our capital projects. Some can give more and others can give less so please remember it is not about equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.

To make your participation in the 2019 C.S.A. as convenient as possible, we have included a card along with a return envelope. List your total pledge, any amount you are paying immediately, and any balance due. Let us know how you want to pay the balance—in 4 or 9 installments. This year (after May 1st) there is an option of going to <http://ssjp.aodcsa.org> to make your pledge and payments online. We also offer the option of paying the C.S.A. pledge in full or making C.S.A. payments by going to the parish website (www.ssjohnandpaul.org) or using the parish app (myparishapp.com) and follow the links for online giving. If you choose one of the online options, please check the appropriate box on the card and return the card without any payment.

We ask that you try to return the enclosed card along with any check/money in the Sunday collection within the next two weeks (May 4/5 or May 11/12). If you prefer to drop it off in person, you may do so at the parish office any time or in the gathering space after Mass on those two weekends. Please don't hesitate to ask questions or share concerns.

Even if you are unable financially to contribute this year, just mark the card with a '0' and send it in. We'll know then to not contact you or send you a follow-up letter. If you choose not to contribute but would like to support the capital projects, indicate that on the card. Thank you.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Fr. Festus Ejimadu
Pastor

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SS. John and Paul Parish
 Myths and Facts about C.S.A. 2019

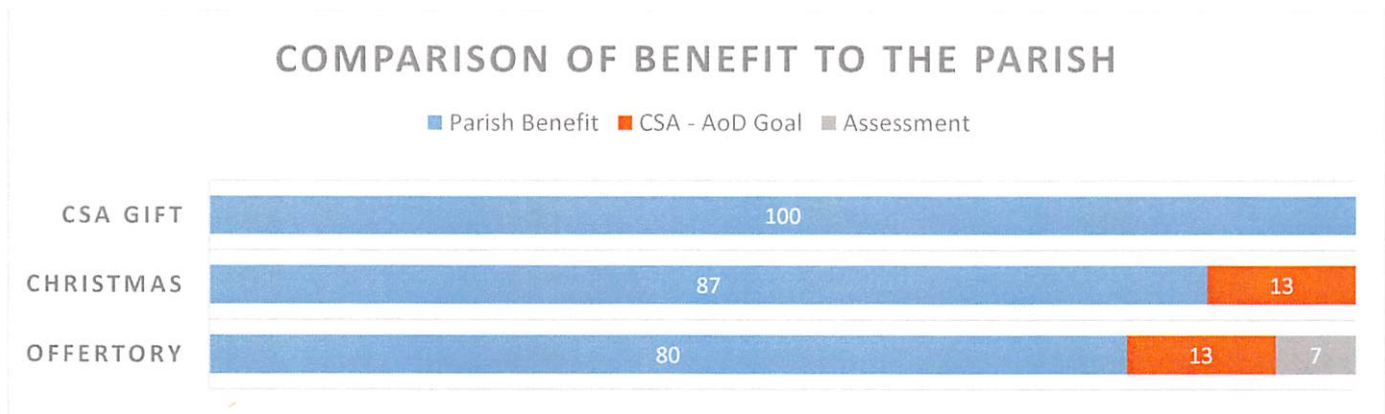


Myth #1: *The C.S.A. mandatory target for the parish is based on how well or how poorly the parish did in the C.S.A. the previous year.*

Fact: The previous year’s C.S.A. drive has nothing to do with this year’s mandatory target. Targets are based on an objective formula and the calculation is determined by looking at a three year average of the parishes’ offertory and Christmas collections and applying a rate of 13%, which is a tiered rate based on total offertory. Tiered rates range from 9.5%-15.5%. Thus, as a parish grows, its C.S.A. target grows. As a parish stabilizes or even declines, its C.S.A. begins to go down. A parish can go way over the mandatory target in their C.S.A. and that has **no effect** on the target it will receive the following year. We have been the beneficiaries of such monies ourselves. This past fiscal year we received over \$130,000 from the C.S.A., all tax free.

Myth #2: *The C.S.A. donation is the least effective way to donate money to the parish.*

Fact: Just the opposite. The C.S.A. is the most effective way to donate money, since every dollar directly benefits the parish 100%. Either it helps the parish pay its mandatory target, which otherwise must come from its other funds, or it comes back to the parish “tax-free”, unlike other contributions that are taxed at 7%. This means that if someone has a significant donation to give to the parish, the most effective way to do so, the way that benefits the parish the most, is through the C.S.A. The chart below highlights the benefits of donating to the C.S.A.:



Myth #3: *Withholding C.S.A. money is a good way to send a signal of displeasure to the Archdiocese.*

Fact: If you want to show displeasure at the diocese or the bishop, withholding C.S.A. donations only hurts the parish, not the diocese. The diocese will receive all the budgeted money either through the C.S.A. drive or by billing the parish for the missed target. The best way to show displeasure to the diocese is through a thoughtful, direct letter to Archbishop Vigneron, detailing what your concerns are.

SS. John and Paul Parish Myths and Facts about C.S.A. 2019

Myth #4: If we don't reach our C.S.A. target, there is no consequence to the parish.

Fact: If we don't reach our target, the parish must pay the difference out of its other funds. That means we either reduce other operating expenses or take it from our savings. This is a very significant consequence to the parish for not reaching the mandatory target.

Myth #5: No parish makes its C.S.A. target. Targets are way too high.

Fact: While the overall C.S.A. budget of the diocese can certainly be argued about, the majority of parishes make their C.S.A. target every year, including last year. Most parishes use the C.S.A. to raise additional funds, because they know they will go significantly over their targets and not have to pay any diocesan assessment on that money. It all comes back to the parish "tax free".

Myth #6: C.S.A. dollars were used to pay for costs related to cases of clergy abuse of minors or for projects outside the Diocese.

Fact: No C.S.A. dollars have ever gone toward projects outside the diocese. Also, no C.S.A. dollars have gone toward defending allegations of sexual misconduct or for payouts to bring such situations to a close. The C.S.A. budget is pre-approved and C.S.A. money goes toward funding those programs and offices for which it was budgeted.

Myth #7: The Archdiocese has plenty of money for all of its programs and doesn't really need this C.S.A. money.

Fact: The budget for the C.S.A. (\$17.9 million this year) represents the largest portion of the overall yearly Archdiocesan budget. Money is also received by assessing all parishes 7% of their Offertory and parish fund-raising money (raising approximately \$11 million) and by investing reserves in the financial markets. Also at times the Archdiocese gets some bequests from wills and other donations. But without the C.S.A. monies the Archdiocese would not be able to maintain most of its many ministries as an Archdiocesan Church.

Proposed Capital Projects

- Painting exterior of Church
- Roof Replacement-Church
- Roof Replacement-Parish House
- Roof Replacement-Pavilion
- Roof Replacement-Formation Wing Air Conditioner-Church
- (10) Heating/Cooling Units-Formation Wing
- New Parking Lot
- Repair floor/replace carpet in Formation Wing