



## **Commitment Weekend Script- 2026 Appeal**

Last weekend, I announced that we will be conducting our Lenten Commitment/In-Pew Weekend this weekend. This is an opportunity for those of you who have not yet made a gift, to join your fellow parishioners today and help our parish reach its goal.

You should have received two letters, one from Cardinal Dolan, and most recently, from our new pastoral shepherd, Archbishop Hicks, who reiterated the importance of the *Cardinal's Appeal* to the mission of the wider Church.

Every parish in the archdiocese, including our parish, makes it a priority to help the broader Church in New York. Through your support in the *Stewardship Appeal*, you serve the needs of our neighbors across the archdiocese, where together we strive to raise a total of \$21 million by Easter, which will provide:

- **(\$9M) Financial Assistance for Struggling Parishes**
- **(\$3.5M) Pastoral Administration, Grants, and Services**
- **(\$3M) Retired Priests, Priestly Education, and Formation Programs**
- **(\$3M) Catholic Education**
- **(\$2.5M) Charitable Outreach**

I personally support this appeal **for its impact on [optional - pastor highlights 1-3 element(s)]**.

Each of you already does so much for our parish home but today, I would like to invite each of us to extend that generosity to the rest of our Archdiocese, which needs our help. It is very important to support the greater Church, and I want our parish to be an example of 100% participation.

For those who have already made their gift, thank you for your early support. Thanks to your generosity, our parish has already reached % of goal. I am excited to say we are only **\$XX** away from reaching our goal of **\$XX**. I hope we can reach our goal as early as this weekend or by Easter and share the good news with our new archbishop! To get there, I need every household who has not yet participated, to join me and your fellow parishioners today!

**[FILLING OUT AN ENVELOPE]** At this time, you should see special *Appeal* envelopes in the pews, but if they are not there at the moment, I would like to ask the ushers to begin handing out the pens and envelopes... (direct parishioners to pass down the envelopes at the end of the pews). I would like to walk everyone through this process for anyone who is new to our parish or the *Appeal*.

*(Consider filling out your envelope with your parishioners)*

**Step 1:** I ask that you prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that is most appropriate for you and your family.

**Step 2:** Include your contact information, full name, address, and email, so we can share updates with you. Be sure to direct your gift to **PARISH NAME, CITY NAME** so that our parish receives credit for your gift.

**Step 3:** On the right, please indicate your total intended gift amount. You have the option to make a one-time gift or make a pledge where you make your gift at a later date or make several payments up to 9-months to fulfill your pledge. Choose your preferred method of payment.



- If you indicated you wish to pay by card, please include that information.
- If paying by check, please make it out to the *Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal*, not the parish.

(Please note that you do not have to make your first payment today — a billing statement can be sent to you for your pledge commitment.)

**Step 4: Optional** - Write any prayer intention you have on the section of the pledge envelope that says, “prayer intentions.” Thank you, and God bless.

### **Commitment Weekend Script (Abbreviated Version) - 2026 Appeal**

- Every year we try to help our broader community in the archdiocese through our support of the *Stewardship Appeal*.
- Let's continue the momentum of this year's *Appeal* that started under Cardinal Dolan to its successful completion under our new pastoral shepherd, Archbishop Hicks.
- I personally believe in and support the mission of the *Appeal*.
- There are several case elements that are especially important to our community — namely <...>
- If you have never given before, I invite you to be involved this year.
- I want to thank you who give year after year, new supporters and for those who have shown early support by already making a gift.
- Thanks to early support, the parish is % of its \$ goal and can reach goal this weekend if \$ is raised.
- Our parish aim is 100% participation. This means we want EVERY household to participate this year. Every gift will be making a difference.
- Allow me to help you through the participation process, I will use my own special *Appeal* envelope as an example.
  - Walk through the \ envelope, line by line, so that newcomers can understand the process. Take your time, it is easy to speed through the instructions, but fewer people will participate if they are rushed.
  - Make checks payable to the *Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal*, not the parish.
  - Make a gift online by scanning the QR code on the envelope or go to [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org)
  - Emphasize the ease of a one-time gift or a pledge commitment over several months.
  - Mention the prayer intentions section of the pledge envelope
  - (For pastor) Make sure to clearly define the Appeal envelope collection process.
- Thank you again and God bless you.



## **Tips for a Successful Commitment Weekend**

*The goal of Commitment/In-Pew Weekend is to receive a completed response from all parishioners present at all Masses in the parish, whether through pledge envelopes or online giving, and to invite people into active participation in the wider life of the Church.*

### Keys to Success:

- Communicate with your Campaign Manager to ensure your parish's *Appeal* goal progress is up to date.
- Mission is the priority. People will be more generous to the *Appeal* and the parish if they feel they are being invited into the Church's mission of evangelization and service through their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
- Form a team at the parish to help parishioners fill out envelopes and collect them.
  - Include ushers in the distribution and collection of the special *Appeal* envelopes.
- Set-up a *Cardinal's Appeal* table/space just for *Appeal* materials (add a table cloth on top to make it look nice)
- Conduct a 5-Star Commitment Weekend:
  - Present after the homily or tie-in the homily message. It is not recommended to replace the homily with the Commitment Weekend pitch. If you present after Communion, make sure it is presented as a priority over any other announcements that week.
  - Use the script as a guide and make it personal to the parish.
  - Instruct all parishioners to complete their information and turn in an envelope today.
  - Remind those who wish to give online that there are QR codes on the interior of the envelopes.
  - Ushers or team members should collect the envelopes immediately after parishioners fill out their responses. It is not the best practice to suggest parishioners take home the envelopes (that's what the pre-commitment weekend was for)
- Offer a prayer of thanks for fulfilling commitments of time, talent, and treasure.
- **ASK YOUR CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR SUPPORT.** Your CM's job is to help you strategize, encourage, and execute a great commitment weekend so that you reach goal early in the *Appeal* season.