



# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

24 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA

*"Let your way of life among the people be such that whoever sees or hears you will glorify and praise our Heavenly Father." - St. Francis of Assisi*

October 5, 2025

Dear Parishioners –

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that our parish will be taking up a special second collection at all Masses the weekend of October 25 & 26 for this year's Annual Catholic Appeal – "Together in Hope" and provide you with some background information about why this is happening the way it is.

Since Lent of 2023, you may have noticed the absence of our parish collecting contributions for the Annual Catholic Appeal, as well as for the major Diocesan Capital Campaign – "Beacon of Faith". This is due to a special arrangement I made with the diocese to not overburden our parish and defer these campaigns to be included in our upcoming parish capital campaign to raise necessary funds for our new and much needed parish center.

I was optimistic that we would be further along in the planning process for our new parish center and be able to kick off our capital campaign in 2025. While I can assure you that we are making steady progress on plans for the new building, we are waiting on a finalized plan to know what it will cost.

In updating the diocese on our progress, I let them know that we are now looking to launch our capital campaign for the new building in 2026. Given this information, they did not want us to add yet another Annual Catholic Appeal into our capital campaign. It was agreed that we would take up a special collection for the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal on a single weekend.

I hope you will consider giving generously to the Annual Catholic Appeal collection October 25 & 26. Please note that baskets will be passed a second time during Mass, specifically for this collection. If you wish to donate online, you can do so through our online giving page or go directly to [www.diospringfield.org/aca](http://www.diospringfield.org/aca).

The Annual Catholic Appeal distributes funds to 48 ministries and agencies within the Diocese of Springfield. In some cases, it is the sole source of support for these ministries. Over the last 65 years, your donations have helped serve the young and old; fed the hungry; spread the faith; lifted up families and individuals in need and in crisis; educated our priests and deacons; and helped to support all life, from conception to natural death. Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of thousands of our neighbors? Your gift will nurture faith, hope, and love right here in Western Massachusetts.

Thank you in advance for your generous response to this appeal. I look forward to sharing more about our new parish center project with you soon.

In Christ -

*Fr. David*

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