

# A Pastor's Perspective

January 09, 2022 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Last weekend, the story of the Epiphany reminded us that the magi followed the star to find the newborn king, Jesus. Upon doing so, they presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. After this divine manifestation, we are told that the magi returned home “by another way.” This is the Gospel’s way of explaining that the magi’s encounter with the Lord had led them to conversion, to a renewed way of life.

This week, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, another divine revelation through which Christ first came to meet us, to save us, and to make us members of his Body. We gather **Together in Christ** (the Catholic Appeal motto) at Mass, where our encounter with the Lord is no less divine, no less real, as he presents himself in the community of faith, in the Word of God, and in the Eucharist. Week after week, as we celebrate the mystery of the Mass, we also return home “by another way” – more deeply conformed to Jesus Christ, more committed to serving his Presence in our Church and world.

It is with deep gratitude that I regularly witness how our community of faith manifests the presence of Christ in our parish, community, and diocese. Thank you for all you do, and this week, I say a special thank you because of the prayers and generosity you’ve offered toward the success of the 2021 Catholic Appeal (please see our weekly update on page 9). With gifts-to-date totaling \$233,932, St. Paul the Apostle Parish is very close to meeting our financial goal, which supports many ministries and services locally and throughout our diocese and state. We also have made significant progress toward our participation goal, with 683 (17%) of our nearly 4,000 registered families responding.

If you have not yet made a gift, please consider doing so. With only \$4,461 to go toward meeting our parish’s financial goal, I have every confidence that with a bit of prayerful inspiration and personal sacrifice, we can, **Together in Christ**, fulfill our responsibility toward our brothers and sisters who are blessed by the programs supported by the Catholic Appeal.

*Peace and blessings,*

*Msgr. Andrew*