Date

Name(s)

Address

Address

Dear Name(s),

*Prepare the way of the Lord!*

Each year around this time, we hear John the Baptist cry out, “Prepare the way of the Lord!” As we come to the end of one liturgical year and we begin the season of Advent, we are challenged to be ready for Christ’s coming – not only 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, but here and now. It’s a time to take stock of our lives.

In recent decades, this has also become a time for many Americans to take stock of their charitable giving. As the calendar year / tax year nears its end, many people will make gifts to organizations doing good work here and around the world.

**As you consider your year-end charitable giving, I hope that you will offer a generous contribution to our *(Parish Community Name).*** I can think of no other organization that more fully prepares the way of the Lord for you and me and so many others. Through our worship, faith formation, youth ministry, pastoral care, charitable outreach, and social activities we make the love of Christ incarnate for thousands of people.

If you have not yet fulfilled your annual pledge to ***(Parish Community Name)***, I invite you to do so at this time. If you find that you are able contribute more than the amount of your pledge, that’s terrific. If you did not make a pledge (or perhaps have made no significant gift to the parish this year), now is the time to do it. A reply envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

In addition to gifts of cash, many people (especially at year-end) will make a gift of appreciated stock and/or a disbursement from their IRA. You might experience a significant tax advantage by giving this way. If you would like assistance with this type of giving, please contact *(Name of Contact)* at our office: (Phone Number and email)

However, you choose to give, please know of my gratitude as we, like Saint John the Baptist over 2000 years ago, prepare the way of the Lord!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

*(Name of Pastor)*

Pastor