

# #YOUR MERCY

Transforming Lives + Communities

The 2018 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal will take place next weekend in our parish. Please refer to the fliers at the doors of the Cathedral, which include our parish's goal and an overview of the importance of Catholic Charities in our communities. This year's appeal theme is **Your Mercy: Transforming Lives and Communities**. Your generous support will transform the lives of others, to offer dignity, possibilities, and companionship to those who are most vulnerable.

As in the past, an in-pew commitment process will take place **next weekend, February 17/18**. All who have not received the mailing from Bishop Perez, or have not had a chance to respond to it, will be asked to consider making a generous pledge to support the ministries and services provided by Catholic Charities. If you have received the mailing, please respond generously to it. We also ask you to also complete the in-pew envelope and indicate, by checking the box, that you have responded by mail.

We invite you to view stories of inspiration, like the one below, and more information at <catholiccommunity.org/2018Appeal>.



## ST. ELIZABETH CENTER

When John arrived at the homeless shelter, he felt this was the end – this is where he would spend his life. Two months later, John was working and in his own apartment thanks to Catholic Charities.

“If it weren't for the shelter, I don't know where I would be right now,” says John, who had been dealing with personal issues and was bouncing from place to place with no secure residence to stay. “Catholic Charities gave me confidence that I could get back on my feet. They showed me that I wasn't worthless. They gave me hope back.”

The goal of St. Elizabeth Center in Lorain County is to improve the quality of life and provide safe housing.

The Center, which opened in fall 2017, serves homeless men in its overnight shelter and also provides meals and social services to men, women, and children who are vulnerable.



## The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

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## Lent 2018

**Ash Wednesday** - February 14, marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and is a *Day of Fast & Abstinence*.

**Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at:** 7:15, 11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 5:10, & 7:00 pm.

Ashes will be distributed during all Masses.

### Ash Wednesday Ministries

**Additional Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, & Ushers will be needed to assist on that day. If you are willing to assist, please sign up in the Sacristy.**

**The Stations of the Cross** are prayed each Friday of Lent at 4:30 pm.

**Daily Meditations for Lent** - Copies of daily meditations for Lent from “*The Word Among Us*” are available at the doors of the Cathedral. Please feel free to take a copy for your personal prayer.

**Operation Rice Bowl** funds poverty and hunger alleviation programs, both locally and internationally. Pick up a “Rice Bowl” in the church. Details on page 4.

**Fast & Abstinence** - **Ash Wednesday, February 14** & Good Friday, March 30, are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast (that is, limited to a single full meal). The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday (Canons 97 and 1252). The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. One should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord's call to penance and conversion.



### The Diocesan Rite of Election

will be celebrated at the Cathedral at 5:30 pm, on Sunday, Feb. 18th. Due to the timing of this event, **there will be no 5:30 pm parish Mass at the Cathedral on that day.**