

## ELECTRONIC GIVING – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is Electronic Giving? Rather than writing a check or giving cash, this program collects contributions electronically that YOU authorized from your checking or savings accounts. There is NO COST to you to participate in this program.
2. Why Electronic Giving?
  - a. Many parishioners have requested this option
  - b. Electronic Giving provides better budgeting and planning of parish finances throughout the year
  - c. Electronic Giving allows the parish to have a more reliable revenue stream. Currently, when people do not attend Mass at St. Joseph Church due to weather, vacations, etc., the parish experiences a critical drop in offertory. Whether or not you attend mass at St. Joseph Church, the parish needs to be able to pay its bills
  - d. We are a parish that teaches and encourages Stewardship - sharing of our time, talent and treasure, is an obligation that arises from Baptism
  - e. Finally, the process of signing up for Electronic Giving forces parishioners to look at how they support our parish. We know times are very difficult for many of you. The parish is doing what it can to keep costs down. We are hoping you will take a serious look at how you give to the church
3. What will be the benefits to you?
  - a. It will allow you to plan your giving in the same way you budget other financial considerations
  - b. You will no longer have to be concerned about catching up on your contributions when you are away from the parish for Mass
  - c. You will no longer need to write a check or bring cash every week
  - d. Your expression of gratitude for God's many blessings will be constant and effortless.
4. Are we required to participate in the Electronic Giving program? No, this is just an option for giving that many parishioners have requested.
5. How do I calculate the amount to be debited from my account?

Using the amount of your usual weekly contribution, multiply that number by 52 (weeks) to determine your annual giving amount. If you plan to have your account debited monthly, divide the annual amount by 12 (months). If you plan to have your account debited twice-monthly, divide the annual amount by 24. The resulting answers will be the debit amount based on your preferred frequency.

6. What about my weekly envelopes? For now, you will continue to receive weekly and holyday envelopes by mail. The weekly envelopes have an "Electronic Giver" box on the front that should be checked by Electronic Givers. This allows you to continue to demonstrate your financial support of the parish at Mass. Eventually as participation increases, we may be able to make receipt of weekly envelopes optional.
7. How much do I have to pay for this service? Electronic Giving will cost you nothing, except in the case of a non-sufficient funds fee (currently \$10) passed on by the bank. The parish will pay \$.35 per transaction which we anticipate will be offset by lower administrative costs and consistency of contributions by participants.
8. If I do not have sufficient funds in my account at the time of the electronic transfer, will the bank attempt the transaction a second time? No, the bank will attempt the electronic transfer only one time.
9. When would contributions be debited from my checking/statement savings account? Payments will be debited on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for "monthly givers" OR on the 15<sup>th</sup> and last business day of the month for "twice monthly givers".
10. Is there a minimum contribution required for participants? Yes, contributions must be no less than \$15.00 per week (\$65.00 monthly or \$32.50 twice monthly).
11. Can I discontinue participation in Electronic Giving later? You may cancel participation whenever you wish by completing a *Cancellation of Electronic Giving* form and providing it to the Administrative Center prior to the next debit date.
12. Will I be able to change the amount of my contribution after I sign up for Electronic Giving? Yes, you would simply complete a form, *Authorization to Change Electronic Giving Contribution* form available at the Parish Administrative Center.
13. How do I get started with Electronic Giving? You will need to complete an *Authorization Agreement for Electronic Giving* form, sign the form and return it to the Parish Administrative Center along with a voided check for your checking account OR a deposit slip for your statement savings account. If your checking/statement savings account requires two signatures, both signers must sign the Authorization Agreement.