

A Quick Guide to Automatic Electronic Giving And the Sunday Offertory

What is electronic giving?

The Automatic Offering Plan is a plan by which parishioners specify a **weekly** or **monthly** amount to be taken electronically from their bank account which is electronically credited to their parish.

It is a convenient, safe and reliable way to make stewardship contributions using electronic transfer. Similar to programs offered by banks, telephone and utility companies, your contributions are automatically withdrawn from a regular checking or savings account at any bank or credit union.

The parishioner simply completes the authorization form and the Parish Business Office does the rest. No one but the parishioner has access to their account and nothing can be withdrawn without their authorization. You can cancel or change the contribution amount at any time simply by sending a written notice to the Parish Business Office.

What are the advantages?

To the parishioner...

- Planned. Your pledge to your parish is fulfilled according to your intent. Helps you give your first fruits instead of what is left over.
- Consistent. If you are out of town and miss Mass, you won't fall behind in your commitment.
- Easy to do. You won't forget to make your contribution.
- Safe. You will have a bank statement paper trail available to you.
- Simplified. No checks, no envelopes, no stamps. Is hassle free, as you don't need to write checks or find your envelopes. Saves money for checks.
- Allows you to change the amount any time.
- Convenient. Gives you an easy and direct way to make your stewardship contribution.

To the parish...

- Consistent. The gift is always there. Planned...you know what to expect...helps budget.
- Helps people fulfill their pledge or tithe to the parish.
- Is attractive to younger donors and retirees.
- Makes it easier for the parish to plan ahead and provide funds for various ministries.

Questions and Answers

Question Why is it necessary to provide the parish with a voided check?

Answer This enables the office to confirm the accuracy of the ABA routing number printed on your check. It reduces the possibility of error.

Question Is it better to arrange an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) on a monthly or weekly basis?

Answer No difference – the choice is yours.

Question Are there problems with Electronic Funds Transfer giving?

Answer Many area parishes have been offering EFT giving to their parishioners for some time. Parishes report a high degree of customer satisfaction.

Question What do we put into the offertory basket at Mass?

Answer If you wish you can mark “electronic payment” on the envelope and place in the offertory basket

Question What does being a good Christian steward of my money and possessions really mean?

Answer The concept of stewardship of your money and possessions invites you to prayerfully consider how you are using those gifts. Do you accumulate much more than you need? Do you use what you have responsibly? Is your checkbook a good indicator of your priorities? Is what you give back to others, including your parish and other charities, in proportion to what you have been given?

As a Christian steward and disciple of Jesus you are challenged to use your gifts not for your own glory, but for the glory of God. You are invited to pray, make a plan, and then put your plan into action. The idea is to make a conscious decision out of gratitude to your most generous God. You will have then answered the Psalmist’s question: “What shall I return to the Lord?” (Psalm 116.12)

Interested?

Mail your completed Automatic Electronic Giving Authorization form and voided check to Ann Foltice, St. Pius X Church, 3937 Wilson Avenue, SW, Grandville 49418-2331. If you wish, you can place your completed form and voided check in a sealed envelope and drop it into the Sunday collection basket. Questions should be directed to Ann at 532-9344 x102.