

Saint Joseph Parish
Medford, MA 02155

Electronic Contributions Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is an Electronic Contributions Program?

A. It is an option which enables you to financially support your parish through automated electronic transfers from your checking, savings, or credit card account directly to the parish.

Q. Should I participate in this program?

A. Only if you choose to. It is an option.

Q. What happens to my weekly envelopes?

A. Those who opt to participate in the program will no longer receive envelopes, saving the parish postage and mailing costs. If you wish to continue use of envelopes for certain collections you may do so.

Q. How do I join the program?

A. Enrollment is easy. Simply fill out and submit to the parish office the enrollment form. The form may be dropped in the weekend collection basket, or mailed to the rectory.

Q. What will it cost to participate?

A. There is no cost to those who opt to participate. There is a small cost to the parish. Parish costs are offset, however, by reduced postage, materials, and handling.

Q. Does my electronic transfer include diocesan and parish special collections such as the Grand Annual, fuel collections, donations for flowers, etc.?

A. Yes, the parish provides a worksheet which helps you calculate a combined giving amount.

Q. How does a parishioner change his/her information... amount of donation, bank account, mailing address, etc.?

A. The parishioner can provide these changes by phoning the rectory office, by email, or by visiting the office directly.

Q. Which payment accounts are acceptable?

A. Initially a checking or savings account may be designated. At this time only VISA and MasterCard credit cards may be used. Other credit cards may be added later.

Q. May I enroll in electronic giving if I attend Saint Joseph Church only "occasionally"?

A. Yes, you may adjust your monthly giving at the level you deem appropriate.

Q. If I choose to not give to certain collections, can the electronic giving correctly handle my request?

A. Simply add \$0 to the specific collections listed on the worksheet and your pledge will be processed as requested.

Q. Can I pledge a certain amount electronically and also maintain my weekly envelopes?

A. Yes if that is your wish. Neither you, nor the parish, however, receive the full benefits, cost-wise and ease-of-use-wise, if you take this approach.

Q. How am I protected against illegal or incorrect charges to my credit card or my bank account? If this does happen who spends time setting things right?

A. More and more parishes are getting involved in electronic giving. The company your parish works with has a good track record. Should you have doubts... the good experience of your fellow parishioners should help convince you that the system is reliable, safe, and trouble free.

Q. I feel awkward not giving to the basket as it is being passed. How can you address this concern?

A. Parishioners will be reminded constantly of the new approach... until a high degree of "comfort" is reached. You may choose to keep your envelopes for a short time, and mark them "EG" (Electronic Giver), putting them into the collection basket. As stated above, the full benefits are realized only when we get comfortable enough to eliminate envelopes. Should there be a need, we will provide a business size card for you to put in the collection basket which reads "I am an electronic giver to Saint Joseph Parish".

Q. Is electronic giving really safe?

A. Electronic transmissions are safer than checks (which are safer than cash). Paper checks include names and addresses of the writer, the bank account number, and may even include telephone numbers and social security numbers. Electronic transmissions contain far less information than the typical paper check.