

A Perspective on ParishPay

Perhaps the hardest task for any parish is creating a budget. To make an analogy between our parish and a household, it's as if we operate on 100% commission. Our contributions vary from week to week and are never guaranteed. For example, attendance at our weekend liturgies during the summer months drops by approximately 40%. In the winter months, a weekend snowstorm keeps many parishioners at home. Can you imagine the effect on our operating budget? It is the rare minority who contribute while they are away, and we are so grateful to those who do.

It is the dream of most parishes that each family would let the parish know in advance what they expect to contribute on an annual basis so the parish could budget accurately. Although this is still a dream, ParishPay does offer a means by which families can budget and plan for their contributions to the parish, which allows the parish to be certain of at least some of our contributions for an annual budget.

Everyone knows what their cable TV bill is annually, what their electric bill is annually, what their taxes are etc. In contemplating ParishPay, some parishioners have shared with me that they have done some quick math and realized that their weekly contribution multiplied by 52 does not even equal what they pay for cable TV for the year!

Talking about money in church is never comfortable, either for us talking about it or for you hearing about it. But the truth of the matter is that we cannot do what our mission calls us to do without money and, the more we have, the more we can do together. Some of you will never be comfortable banking electronically. That's OK! But for those who are, ParishPay has proven to be a practical, easy, convenient and beneficial solution.

Ascension has always embraced various means of financially supporting the community. We have parishioners who provide valuable needed services at no cost to us, and that is their contribution instead of putting cash or checks into the collection basket. We've always encouraged parishioners to give in whatever way they feel comfortable and in whatever way works for them. With this in mind, we are just offering ParishPay as another means by which to contribute. Be it services, ParishPay, and/or the collection basket, we are open to all and are grateful for all your support.

I ask that you payerfully consider using ParishPay. I ask you to fill out the response form below and return it to the Rectory.

You can register for ParishPay directly on-line through our parish website www.churchoftheascension.com or by going to www.parishpay.com or calling **1-866-PARISH-1** or by getting assistance in the Rectory.

Church of the Ascension ParishPay

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone # () _____ Envelope # _____

Please check one:

_____ Yes, I will register with ParishPay directly. Please discontinue my envelopes.

_____ No, I would like to continue using the envelope system.

_____ Yes, I would like to register with ParishPay, but I would like assistance.
Please call me.



Parishioner's Guide to The ParishPay Program :

Q. What is an Automated Giving Program?

A. It is an automated means to financially support the parish through monthly contributions from your checking, savings, or credit card account. There is NO cost to you to participate in the program.

Q. How Does It Relate to the Use of the Weekly Envelopes?

A. If you choose to participate in the Automated Giving Program, then it replaces the use of weekly envelopes.

Q. What happens with parishioners who feel uncomfortable not having something to physically drop into the collection basket?

A. Special donation slips are available for those enrolled in the automated giving program to be dropped into the collection basket.

Q. How do I enroll?

A. You can enroll by filling out an enrollment form at the rectory, signing up directly on the ParishPay website at www.parishpay.com, or calling 1-866-PARISH-1. The process takes less than three minutes.

Q. Can I contribute to second collections including both parish and diocesan collections?

A. Yes, all automated giving participants have the opportunity to contribute to second and special collections at the parish, including Christmas, Easter, Peter's Pence, and more.

Q. How does a parishioner change his / her information, such as the amount of the donation, bank account number or mailing address?

A. The parishioner can provide these changes to the church office, or directly by visiting the website at www.parishpay.com or calling 1-866-PARISH-1.

Q. Which payment methods are accepted?

A. Automated transfers from your checking or savings accounts or major credit cards such as American Express, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover may be used to make monthly contributions.

Q. Does the parishioner receive receipts for tax purposes?

A. Yes, all contributors enrolled with ParishPay can print out an annual receipt directly from the website every January, which they can use for IRS documentation.

Q. Can I donate a one-time gift or pledge for a specific term?

A. Yes, one time gifts are graciously accepted. Participants can also arrange for a specific amount to be paid over a number of months.