



# Electronic-Giving is coming to Saint Matthew's !!

Last year's Financial Report noted that we were looking into the possibility of offering our parishioners the ability to make their contributions to the parish electronically. These Electronic Fund Transfers, which are now so commonly used for receiving paychecks and pensions directly into our checking accounts and for the payment of regular expenses like telephone, electricity and credit card bills are now available to churches. When used for charitable causes this technology has been nick named E-Giving.

After doing a good amount of research and consultation, our Finance Committee has recommended that Saint Matthew's join with many of our neighboring parishes in offering this technology as a stewardship option for those who are interested.

There are advantages for both parish and parishioner:

- The satisfaction of giving to God first, as a part of your regular budget.
- A more consistent and predictable source of income for Saint Matthew's, allowing better budgeting.
- More convenient and less expensive than writing checks.
- More secure than handling cash and checks at the church.
- It costs parishioners nothing to enroll and participate.

Additional information on how you can support Saint Matthew's in this easy, reliable, and secure way is provided on the reverse of this sheet. More information will be provided next weekend as well.

Please consider using this method in meeting that oldest responsibility of Christian living, that of faithful stewardship.

*more information* →

# An E-Giving Catechism

**Q: What is E-Giving?**

**A:** It is an Electronic Fund Transfer program to assist parishioners and parishes in the financial support of the Church through automated recurring contributions from your bank account or credit card account. It is an alternative to the weekly offertory envelope system.

**Q: Why E-Giving?**

**A:** While it provides a simplicity and convenience for you, it saves time and labor and actually strengthens the church's funding.

**Q: Is this new?**

**A:** E-Giving is new to Saint Matthew's, but other charities and non-profit organizations have been using it for years.

**Q: Are electronic contributions risky?**

**A:** No. An electronic contribution is safer than writing a check and it can't be lost, stolen or destroyed in the mail. All Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) transactions are governed by strict national rules and guidelines. Over four billion EFT transactions are processed annually in the United States.

**Q: If I don't write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balance straight?**

**A:** Your contribution is made on a pre-established day, so you can deduct it from your check record then. Your bank/credit card statements will also reflect your gift. Those with email addresses will receive an electronic confirmation and thank you.

**Q: How often will I be able to give electronically?**

**A:** Funds are transferred either once or twice a month on the days of the month that you designate.

**Q: Can I change the amount of my offering transfer?**

**A:** Yes, you may do so by submitting an authorization form with the changes to the parish office.

**Q: What if I try it and don't like it?**

**A:** You can change or cancel your electronic giving at any time with written instruction. Call the parish office at 765-2805 with any questions.

**Q: What do I use when I do my taxes? Will I get a statement of everything I gave online?**

**A:** You will receive a statement from the church with all your donation information (via E-Giving or in person) that can be used for tax purposes.

**Q: How much does electronic giving cost?**

**A:** While transfer fees are less than a postage stamp, the church is willing to take on that cost to help insure the regular faithfulness of your giving, which strengthens our Parish. Credit cards have an additional percentage added so if at all possible, please use your checking account for good stewardship.

**Q: How do I sign up for electronic giving?**

**A:** In two weeks members of the Parish Finance Committee will be available following weekend liturgies to answer any questions and to assist those who are interested in completing the simple authorization form. A voided check, a savings account deposit slip, or your credit card information is also necessary to enroll.

**Q: What if I don't sign up for E-Giving?**

**A:** E-Giving is a convenient and inexpensive alternative to receiving parish envelopes for those wishing to take advantage of it. Those not doing so will continue to receive envelopes. Call the parish office if you are not yet receiving envelopes and would like to. Saint Matthew's depends upon and appreciates your sacrificial support.