

Electronic Giving

Open your heart without opening your checkbook

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash or prepare envelopes.

Frequently Asked Questions About Electronic Contributions

Q. What are the major advantages of Electronic Contributions?

A. Electronic giving is all about convenience for you and consistency for our parish. It eliminates frequent check writing and helps parishioners stay on track with contributions even when they are unable to attend Mass. Our parish in turn benefits from a consistent cash flow and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed. A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment through the elimination of paper checks.

Q. How does Electronic Contributions work?

A. Contributions are transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to the parish's bank account. With your authorization, the transfer is initiated by St. Andrew. You do not need a computer to enroll in our electronic giving.

Q. How are my Electronic Contributions deducted and transferred?

A. First, you sign and return an Electronic Contributions Option Enrollment Form to the parish office indicating the amount you wish to give on a regular basis. Contributions are then transferred through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network—the same network already used by families to make mortgage and utility payments or to receive payroll earnings and Social Security income. Direct debit goes by other names including Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), automatic payment, or simply, ACH.

Q. Is Electronic Giving risky?

A. It is less risky than writing checks or carrying cash to church. To process electronic donations, the parish uses a secured internet connection with Fifth Third Bank to move the funds directly from your account to the parish bank account.

Q. When will my contribution be debited from my account?

A. The debit to your account will occur on the 15th of each month. If the 15th does not fall on a bank business day, the debit will occur on the next business day.

Q. How will I keep track of contributions in my check register?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions will be identified on your bank statement as being initiated by St. Andrew.

Q. What can I use to prove I made a contribution?

A. Your bank statement will show an itemized list of electronic transactions that can be used as proof of your contributions. Your Year End contribution statement from St. Andrew will also reflect 'ACH' as the method of giving.

Q. How much does Electronic Giving cost?

A. It costs the parishioner nothing and it costs the parish very little. It is the lowest cost method of transferring funds and has substantial savings over the traditional envelope method.

Q. What if I try Electronic Giving and don't like it?

A. You can cancel or change your authorization at any time by contacting Ann Whiteman at St. Andrew Parish at least ten business days prior to the scheduled transfer date.

Q. How can I sign up for Electronic Giving?

A. Complete, sign and return an Electronic Contributions Option Enrollment Form and return it to the parish office.