

January 1, 2006

Dear Parishioner,

Over the past few years, several parishioners have suggested to me that St. Edward Parish provide an electronic payment capability as an alternative to the envelope system for weekly Mass offerings. Today many of you use various forms of electronic payment services when paying your monthly bills, signing up for home delivery of a local newspaper, or when making an online purchase from a favorite Internet website.

I am pleased to announce that St. Edward Parish is now capable of offering an electronic payment option to its parishioners for their weekly Mass offerings. This new payment service is an added option, completely voluntary in nature, and allows you to determine the dollar amount that you want to contribute to St. Edwards Parish, and choose the timing of when you want to make an electronic payment from your banking account as you manage your personal budget.

This electronic service allows you to continue to contribute to St. Edward Parish on a consistent basis even when you are traveling out of town seeing family relatives or on vacation. With this electronic banking service, there is no longer a need to use the envelope system at weekly Mass, and you incur no costs to use this service.

Below please find some additional benefits to both you and St. Edward Parish with this electronic payment service:

Benefits to You	Benefits to St. Edward Parish
By using automatic bank withdrawals, parishioners can establish and maintain a planned level of financial support throughout the year that meets their personal budgets.	By committing to a level of weekly or monthly support, parishioners make it possible for the parish to more effectively plan for major maintenance projects by knowing the anticipated amount of monthly Mass offerings.
Giving is more convenient - eliminates the need to write weekly checks and keep track of envelopes.	Saves hours of parish administrative time spent processing payments from the weekend Masses and depositing these funds at a local bank. Also helps St. Edward Parish reduce its expenses for envelopes and associated postage costs.

Benefits to You (continued)	Benefits to St. Edward Parish (continued)
Allows you to continue to make contributions when you are out of town for family functions or on vacation.	Provides St. Edward Parish with a consistent flow of offerings to help meet its monthly operating expenses and to avoid the need for any borrowings from the Archdiocese.
Program is flexible and allows you choices with a range of giving options. At any time, you can change your monthly contribution amount or the designated day in the month for making your payment.	The flexibility of this program allows St. Edward Parish to offer an additional service that parishioners can tailor to their personal needs.
Is secure and free	The service is supported by CheckFree Corporation, whose software supports applications that are used by financial institutions to process more than two thirds of the 12 billion Automated Clearing House transactions in the United States in a secure confidential environment.

We encourage you to take some time to better understand this electronic payment system and its advantages to you and St. Edward Parish. We are confident that you will see the convenience to you and your family with this monthly payment service rather than today's weekly envelope system.

Enclosed please find a Payment Authorization Form for you to review and use to start making monthly electronic offerings to St. Edwards. The enclosed Payment Authorization Form allows you to specify your contribution amount, to select how often you would like to contribute (monthly or quarterly), and to choose one of two available dates in the month when funds can be transferred from your account.

Please return your completed Payment Authorization Form to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket at weekly Mass. As always, please contact us if you have any questions regarding this new parishioner service.

We thank you for your generous and continued support of St. Edwards Parish.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Reverend Leroy E. Owens