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## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

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*all are welcome*

Dear Parishioner,

I hope that you and yours continue to enjoy the peace and joy of Easter!

As I recently mentioned in the bulletin, I have just completed three years of service here at Our Lady's and it is a delight to be part of this community of Faith. The common life we share in Christ, like our personal lives, has both blessings and responsibilities. The blessings here are many and so are the responsibilities. The sharing of our blessings and our responsibilities is part and parcel of the regular life of a Catholic Parish like ours.

But our lives are complex and our responsibilities are many, and we are still in the throws of economic instability. This requires all of us to be mindful of the resources we have and how best to use them – and to share them. Here at Our Lady's we have seen the Grand Annual collection exceed our goal for the last two years. This is a wonderful gift. However, over the last few months, the weekly collection has declined by about twelve hundred dollars a week. This may be related to the economic downturn or it may simply reflect variations in Mass attendance that occur with holidays, vacations and other life events. But it has prompted me, along with the Finance Council of the parish, to move forward with an alternate means by which you can participate in the financial support of Our Lady's – namely consistent electronic giving.

I suspect many of us handle most, if not all, of our finances electronically. However, for the three years I've been here, the amount that is contributed to the collection electronically has been less than 1% of our total collection. I am asking you to seriously consider making your donations electronically in order to assist us in managing our resources well.

We are offering a service to assist you in this regard. **ParishPay** is a means by which you can make your donation to Our Lady's electronically. There is a fact sheet included with my letter which explains the elements of this program and its benefits. Another option is electronic giving through your own financial institution, as some of you already are doing. Should you prefer this method, please contact your bank and ask about their online banking program. Needless to say, we won't abandon the collection at the Liturgy, but I hope you choose to accept this invitation to move to electronic giving, using whichever approach you prefer.

Over the next few weeks we will have some opportunities for you to hear more about the benefits of electronic giving, and **ParishPay** in particular. These opportunities will help all of us make thoughtful choices regarding committed giving to Our Lady's Parish.

I am grateful to you for your consistent support of the Parish in so many ways, and look forward to continuing to explore with you the proper means by which we can sustain and develop Our Lady's as a vibrant parish for so many who make us their spiritual home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. John E. Sassani  
Pastor

**To strengthen stewardship at  
Our Lady's, we request that you consider  
utilizing a new and easier way to support  
our parish...  
Automated Giving.**

**What is Automated Giving?**

An alternate means of support for Our Lady's instead of envelopes. In lieu of weekly collections, the ParishPay program will collect monthly contributions from your checking, saving, or credit card account. There is **NO** cost to you to participate in the program.

**What are the benefits to me?**

- ✓ Allows you to plan your giving, in the same way you budget your other financial commitments.
- ✓ You no longer have to be concerned about catching-up missed offertory donations when you miss a Mass because you are out of town, on vacation, ill, etc.
- ✓ You can easily adjust the amount of your automated contribution (up or down) via a secure website access.
- ✓ You no longer need to write a check every week.

**How does it relate to the use of the weekly envelopes?**

If you choose to participate in the Automated Giving Program, this will replace your weekly envelopes.

**I feel uncomfortable not having something to physically drop into the collection basket. What should I do?**

Special *donation* slips are available for those enrolled in the automated giving program to be dropped into the collection basket, should you wish.

**What about Special Collections?**

You can specify your giving level for Special Collections and special celebration dates (e.g., Christmas, Easter) when you join the Automated Giving Program, or anytime thereafter.

**Your support in this effort is greatly appreciated.**

# ParishPay

*Making it Easier to Give*<sup>™</sup>

## ***WHAT DOES PARISHPAY DO?***

ParishPay processes automatic monthly recurring gifts from parishioners to our parish. These gifts come out of a parishioner's bank or credit card account.

## ***ENROLLMENT***

### **1. What Payment Methods are accepted?**

Parishioners can donate using Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover. You can also contribute through bank transfers.

### **2. Is there a minimum/maximum gift amount?**

We suggest contributing to ParishPay only if your donation is over \$10 per month. ParishPay has processed donations for \$30,000 and \$40,000 - there is no maximum amount that can be processed on an individual transaction or as a monthly amount.

### **3. Different Enrollment Methods**

Parishioners can enroll by visiting our website: [www.ourladys.com](http://www.ourladys.com) and following the "ParishPay" link. For those without internet access, commitment cards (available at the parish office) can be filled out and returned to the parish office.

## ***ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT***

### **1. How do parishioners manage accounts?**

Parishioners can log in to their account by using the login area at the top of ParishPay's website. Once logged in, parishioners will have the option of altering their gift, adding additional gifts or collections, and deleting their account. Parishioners also can see gifts provided to Our Lady's year to date and print up annual giving statements.

### **2. What day are transfers made?**

Recurring monthly gifts are taken on the 5th of the month or the following business day after the 5th, in the case of the 5th falling on a weekend or holiday. ParishPay sends out monthly email reminders to parishioners to let them know about the deduction.

**3. Can this be changed?**

No. All automatic donations are processed on the 5th of the month, or if the 5th is not a business day, then the following business day. However, you can always make a one-time donation at anytime of the month.

**4. Can deductions come out weekly?**

No. Although most church collections do happen on a weekly basis, stewardship experts have found that those that are committing gifts on a monthly basis instead of a weekly basis support their parish with more of their resources.

**5. Do parishioners have to re-specify their donation each year?**

No. Once parishioners are enrolled in the ParishPay program they do not have to re-enroll every year.

**6. Do parishioners receive receipts for tax purposes?**

Yes. Parishioners can print statements once they've logged in.

**7. How about something to put in the plate?**

ParishPay understands the important part of the presentation of gifts during church services. To offer the same reflection process, ParishPay provides parishioners donation slips, which are tear-off postcard-sized coupons to represent that week's gift.

**8. When can parishioners change gifts?**

Up until the 3rd day of every month.

**9. Can parishes change parishioner information at any time?**

Yes. However, for a payment method or amount to be changed, the parishioner must make the change prior to the third day of the month that the change will be affecting.

**10. How do parishioners discontinue the service?**

Parishioners can log in and delete their gifts or contact their parish to delete them. Again, the change cannot take place after the 3rd of the month in order to affect the same month.

**11. How secure are these transactions?**

ParishPay's site uses SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) to ensure that your personal and sensitive data is transmitted safely and securely every time. In addition, they use internal security measures to further increase your data security. Since they deal with credit card and bank account numbers, they transfer that information via SSL. SSL encrypts your data before it is transmitted. If someone "listens in" on the wire, they'll only get encrypted information