

ST. MARY MAGDALEN AUTOMATED GIVING PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

HOW DOES ST. MARY MAGDALEN'S AUTOMATED GIVING PROGRAM WORK?

This secure program works directly with your bank and our bank, in the same way as other electronic funds transfer systems you may already conduct (such as utility bills or mortgage payments). All transactions are done electronically, debiting your checking account automatically for the amount to which you have agreed in writing. It is a hassle-free, simple solution for today's busy families.

IS THERE ANY COST TO THIS PROGRAM?

St. Mary Magdalen Parish charges no fees for this service. In addition, it will save us substantial amounts in the cost of processing, postage, paper, printing, mailings, security, labor, banking fees, theft, etc...

CAN ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS BE TAKEN FROM MY ACCOUNT OTHER THAN WHAT I HAVE AUTHORIZED?

No! St. Mary Magdalen's Automated Giving Program is strictly regulated, and only you can designate the amount of money that may be debited on a weekly basis. We will not disclose any non-public personal information except as required by law. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards to safeguard your information. We work in partnership with our bank and we utilize 128-byte encryption and Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) to ensure that your personal and sensitive information is transmitted safely and securely every time. In addition, we use internal security measures to further increase your data security.

WHEN DO THE TRANSACTIONS TAKE PLACE?

All electronic transfer donations are processed weekly on Sunday (the electronic transfer will actually occur on the first banking day on or following each Sunday – normally on Monday, but on Tuesday when Monday is a bank holiday). The parish will receive the money on the same day and post it to your parish record.

HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT MY GIFT IS GOING TO THE PARISH?

Your weekly gift will be clearly itemized on your bank statement with the name "SACRIFICIAL GIVING" & the name of our parish. St. Mary Magdalen Parish will provide you with an annual contribution statement for tax purposes. Your contributions to St. Mary Magdalen Parish are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

CAN I STOP, INCREASE OR DECREASE MY DONATION AT ANYTIME?

Yes, by calling the Interim Steward for Temporal Affairs, Heidi directly at 407.265.2312 or e-mailing HLewis@StMaryMagdalen.org for an authorization form. For security, we can only accept changes in writing. If you notify us by **Tuesday**, the change will become effective for the following Sunday's transaction. If notification happens after Tuesday, the change may take up to two weeks to complete.

WHEN I ANNUALLY RENEW MY SACRIFICIAL GIVING COMMITMENT ON THE REGULAR WRITTEN PLEDGE CARD, WILL YOU AUTOMATICALLY REVISE THE AMOUNT OF MY AUTOMATED WEEKLY DEBIT TO MATCH THE AMOUNT OF MY PLEDGE WITHOUT HAVING TO COMPLETE ANOTHER AUTOMATED GIVING PROGRAM FORM?

Yes. This is true only for parishioners actively enrolled in our Automated Giving Program. In the future, when you either initiate or renew your annual Sacrificial Giving commitment (normally in November of each year), it will serve as written notification to the parish of any change in your electronic debit amount or frequency under the Automated Giving Program agreement. Changes in giving submitted on Sacrificial Giving commitment cards during November and December will take effect in the Automated Giving Program on the first day of January (since the pledge period is calendar-year based). Changes in giving submitted on Sacrificial Giving commitment cards after the January 1st start of the calendar-year pledge period will become effective immediately in the Automated Giving Program.

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WHAT PAYMENT METHODS ARE ACCEPTED?

Only one option is available for automated payments at this time: ACH debit from a checking account at a U.S. bank.

For now, we've decided not to take credit or debit cards for the Automated Giving Program because the fees to us are still too high and much higher to us than the rewards received by card users. Currently, our cost to process ACH debits from checking accounts is less than the cost of processing regular paper checks. In addition, banks are increasingly beginning to charge businesses for processing deposits of checks and cash, something we have managed to avoid so far – but the end of this seems near (it costs the bank quite a bit to double-check/count the amount of our deposit from the weekend collection). Cash is by far the most expensive method to process when you include the added costs of security and theft. Although we avoid the cost of credit card processing wherever prudent, credit cards are way less expensive to process than cash. Thus, we will be continuing to research and implement systems to avoid all cash receipts wherever possible.

IS THERE A MINIMUM GIFT AMOUNT?

Yes, there is a \$5.00 weekly minimum to participate in our parish Automated Giving Program (but no fees of any kind).

WHAT ABOUT HOLY DAY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS?

Your monthly offertory envelope packet will continue to include the Holy Day and Special collection envelopes required by the Diocese and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. We are unable to make EFT/ACH contributions for these Holy Day and Special collections at this time.

WHAT ABOUT SOMETHING TO PLACE IN THE OFFERTORY BASKET?

We recognize the great importance of your participation in the offertory and presentation of the gifts during the Sacred Liturgy and your important role in serving as a witness to others (like our patron, St. Mary Magdalen) of Giving Sacrificially to support the work of God on earth via His Church. To offer the same reflection and participation process, we will continue to send your Offertory Envelopes to you. Please mark "ACH" or "ACH Donor" on the envelope and place your envelope in the collection basket to acknowledge that you are participating in the Offertory of the Gifts as an Automated Giver.

We heard from many parishioners that the possibility of not participating in the Sunday offertory made them reluctant to participate in any Automated Giving program. The initial pilot program showed us that the above process eliminated any and all concern about this matter. This is why we adopted the national standard method for dealing with this issue. Thanks for serving as a witness to your neighbor and helping us to know who and how many participated in the Mass on a given day!

*If you would like to enroll in our Automated Giving Program, please kindly complete and sign the Enrollment/Authorization Form, keeping a second copy for your records. When complete, **please return one form to the parish office along with a voided check** for the checking account you want us to use for your Automatic Giving. This will provide the information we need to set-up your request with your bank (the bank routing number and account number) and will be held securely in strict confidence.*

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