ONLINE GIVING BEST PRACTICES

PRINCIPLE: Provide a quick and convenient way to make contributions online. Parishes are highly encouraged to offer parishioners the opportunity to give electronically through Online Giving that offer all ways to give - Credit or Debit Card, Checking or Savings, or onsite Card Swipe. Online Giving has been shown to safely and securely increase contributions, increase recurring gifts and create a more consistent cash flow.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2017 – Charitable giving in the U.S. hit a record high – over $400 Billion!
- The majority of charitable dollars went to religion (32%)!
- Online giving continues to grow 8% year after year!
- 80% of Americans own a smartphone. 43% ages 30-60 and 70% under the age of 30 use their smartphone for mobile banking. There has also been an increase among households earning less than $30K/year: 64% of these lower-income households now own a smartphone.

STRATEGIES:

CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL COMPANY TO SET UP ONLINE GIVING

1. Key providers used across the Archdiocese. They all allow automatic posting to PDS and some have a mobile app for online giving, just ask them:
   c. Faith Direct - [http://www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net)

2. Or, check with your bank to see what they recommend and what they recognize.

HOW TO INFORM PARISHIONERS OF THE ABILITY TO GIVE ONLINE

1. Initial Marketing:
   a. Pulpit Announcements
   b. Announce it on the Parish Website home page
   c. Promotional Flyers for you to use can be found at [http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Stewardship/PS/Resources.aspx](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Stewardship/PS/Resources.aspx) - look under Promotional/Educational Materials heading
   d. Periodically provide a link to online giving in a mobile app ‘push’
   e. Create a donate button that is easy to find on the website
   f. Offertory envelope packet – have online giving address printed on envelope or an insert with the online giving address in packet – check with your offertory envelope company
   g. Quarterlies – include a link to your online giving in the quarterly statement you mail parishioners
   h. ALL outgoing communication from ALL Parish Departments
2. **Ongoing Marketing:**
   a. Promotional Flyer/insert at least quarterly (do this for 2-3 consecutive weekends)
   b. Parish Stewardship commitment card/materials
   c. Add a checkbox to your current offertory envelopes - i.e., “I give electronically”
   d. Periodic Pledge Reminder Letters

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**REPORTING RESULTS TO YOUR PARISHIONERS**

1. Weekly or minimally, Monthly
2. Annual Report to parishioners
   For example: How many families give online; Percentage of these families out of Parish Households; Average monthly gift amount of online giving users.