

## **Dear Members of St. Anthony Church:**

Our Stewardship Appeal offers the opportunity to encourage all parishioners to consider using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for the Sunday collection. EFT allows one to make your church envelope donations by automatic deduction/electronic funds transfer. The enclosed application form presents some real advantages to both parishioners and to the parish. Most importantly, it helps parishioners support the parish financially as one intends even when family or business takes one away for a weekend. Please consider it and the questions & answers provided below.

St. Thomas Aquinas noted centuries ago that virtues are formed by practice; we know that is true for everything from study skills and free throw shooting to deepening the love between spouses by regular acts of care and attention. Using EFT for donations can help us get into the practice of tithing—giving God’s portion first—by making it one less thing to remember as we get ready for church. We can still place our envelopes or donation cards available in Church in the collection. We can still give witness to our gratitude to God! But we won’t need to find the cash or the checkbook to put something inside!

About 250 parishioner households currently make use of EFT. Thank you for considering joining their growing number! Please contact Melissa at the Rectory Office (588-0571) with any questions.

## **Some Commonly asked Questions about Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT).**

**Q. When will my contribution be deducted from my account?**

A. Contributions are deducted from your account on the 5th of the month.

**Q. If I don’t write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balanced right?**

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.

**Q. Without a cancelled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?**

A. Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transfers. That is your proof.

**Q. Is an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) risky?**

A. Electronic Fund Transfer is less risky than check or cash contribution. It can’t be lost, stolen or destroyed in the mail and it has an extremely high rate of accuracy.

**Q. What if I change bank accounts?**

A. You will need to contact the parish for a new authorization form or you may download a new one from the website to complete.

**Q. How much does it cost to use an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)?**

A. It costs you nothing and will save you time!

**Q. Will I be able to use EFT for Easter, Christmas, Holy Day and Diocesan collections?**

A. No, EFT is used only for your budget amount. You will still receive envelopes from the church which will have envelopes for Holy Days and special collections.

**Q. What if I try Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) and don't like it?**

A. You can cancel your authorization for EFT at any time by notifying the Parish Rectory in writing.

**Q. How can I sign up for Electronic Fund Transfer?**

A. Simply print our EFT form, attach a voided check and mail it to St. Anthony Church, 1870 St. Ambrose St. Dubuque, IA 52001, or drop it in the Sunday collection basket.

**Forms are also available in the parish office**