



St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

WARNING OF FRAUDULENT SCAM - UPDATE

Updated March 15, 2019

All parishioners of St. Peter's Parish need to be on ALERT regarding a fraudulent SCAM that is being perpetuated using my name and role as pastor trying to get donations. This has been happening since the beginning of March and continues today. It is part of a brazen, ongoing, morphing SCAM. Every day or so they change their mode of operation and what they are requesting. Please do not even click onto these messages requesting your help as if it were me. Please call the parish office at (830) 816-2233 to report that you have been petitioned for a donation.

The scammers are using texts, emails, and phone calls all asking for gift cards for some supposed help for the needy. If they leave a message for you, they always say it's Fr. Norman and that it is URGENT that you get back to them. If you respond to them by any means, they then make the pitch for help. The scammers have asked for iTunes and Amazon gift cards for cancer patients, for my niece, for someone needing a surgery, etc. **Don't fall for any of this.** They eventually say that all you need to send them is the numbers off the back of the gift cards. With the numbers they can cash them out immediately without detection. The scammers are persistent, clever and unrelenting. **Don't fall for any of this! If it sounds fishy, strange or not like me and you are suspicious, please be cautious and call the office immediately!**

I have reported this scam to the Boerne Police and tried to process it with the Texas Attorney General's Office, but they referred me to the Federal Trade Commission and the FBI. I met with the Boerne Police Department yesterday to update my original complaint. **They asked me to try to get copies of texts and emails from the scammers sent to parishioners.** If you were sent a request supposedly in my name or, worse, tricked into purchasing a gift card and sent the scammers the numbers, **please forward your correspondence and the gift card names and numbers to pastoraloffice@stpetersboerne.com so I can put together a file of requests for the police to work with.** Let other parishioners know about this scam.

Keep me informed and prevent being scammed!

Fr. Norman A. Ermis, Pastor
St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church