

## Changes to the Pink Envelope Raffle

For the last 34 years, there has been a pink envelope raffle here at St. Michael. That is a pretty amazing fact and it has been in large part due to the consistent work of Mary Ann Sharp and Betty Richardson. I want to thank them for their hard work.

To the best of my knowledge, the pink envelope was started to help the fund the bus for the school. Over the years, proceeds from the raffle began to be used for other items. Currently, the pot is increased by \$50 each week with funds from the parish no matter how many people play. So, theoretically, the parish could lose money in this setup. Also, under the current setup the parish needs to keep a lot of money in the account to cover all the possible wins. This makes it difficult to know exactly how much money is free and clear for the parish and how much needs to remain in the account. I think that most parishioners believe the pink envelope raffle to be a 50/50 where both the player and parish benefit. However, this is not the case.

The way the winners are currently drawn is from a tub filled with the names of all parishioners. When a name is drawn, they win the pot if they have payed to play that week. If they have not payed to play that week, the pot rolls over to the next week until a winner is drawn. This tub of names has not been updated to reflect our active parishioner list.

With all this in mind we will be making changes to the pink envelope raffle beginning with the first drawing in 2019. I believe that these changes will reflect what many parishioners already believe is happening with the raffle. Beginning with the first week of 2019 the raffle will have the following rules:

- The list of active parishioners will be updated at the beginning of each new calendar year.
- Winners will be determined by envelope number and we will use a random number generator to pick the number. This means that households can only play based on their envelope number. Multiple people cannot play if they have the same envelope number. If new parishioners move in and receive a new envelope number, their number will be added to the list. Numbers will only be taken off the list at the beginning of the year.
- The pot will increase based on the number of people that have played that week. For example, if 40 people choose to play in a given week, then the pot increases by \$40. If 102 households play, then the pot increases by \$102 that week.
- If an envelope number of someone who has played that week is drawn, they win half of the pot. If they did not play, then the pot rolls over to the next week until someone wins.
- When someone wins, the pot is split 50/50 with the parish and the winner.

As we make these changes, we will do two things differently for the last drawing of this year and the new pot for the new year. On the last drawing of this year we will draw until there is a winner. Therefore, someone is guaranteed to win the last week of this calendar year. We will also add \$100 to begin the new year. This amount will be added to the pot along with the amount brought in with whoever plays the first week of the new year. If no one wins the first week, all of the money will roll over.

Any money left in the pink envelope account after the last drawing of the year has been completed will be the parish's money. Any money collected for the raffle in the new year will be payed out when a winner is drawn, and they will receive half and the parish will receive half.

Moving to a true 50/50 raffle is a great opportunity for the pot to increase by more \$50 a week. If 100 households played every week then then we would see \$2,600 payed out to winners and the parish in that year. This is about what we currently average each year. Since the pot increases based on the number of players, we could see greater pots and see more payouts each year. If we got about half the parish to play each week, we could see payouts of \$10,000 a year to both the parish and the winners. Making the raffle a true 50/50 can raise the amount of money folks can win in a year, which is currently capped by just increasing it by \$50 a week. Moving to a true 50/50 model allows the parish clarity in what monies have been raised and allows the parishioners a chance to win more.