

WHY USE ENVELOPES

As we have previously stated in prior bulletins, announcements from the pulpit and in written communications, the use of envelopes (or checks) for contributions to the parish is important for a variety of reasons. First, it is not about money! It is about maintaining accurate record of attendance. Financial contributions are not available to any staff member and are not listed on attendance sheets.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATES

Canon Law 874 and 893 require verification of Mass participation prior to an individual being allowed to be a sponsor for baptism and confirmation. Parishes require certificates of sponsorship for Baptismal Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors. Sponsor certificates can only be issued to validly registered members of a parish who are Confirmed adults (16 years and older), regular participants at Mass (use of envelopes or personal checks helps in this determination), validly married in the Church (if applicable) and provide for the religious education of their children (if applicable).

TUITION SUBSIDY

Use of envelopes provides an accurate record of participation at Mass which is required of those seeking financial subsidy at diocesan parochial schools. The Pastoral Staff, after consultation with the Finance Council and Pastoral Council, has decided to require envelope use as an indicator of Mass participation in order to determine qualification for Religious Education tuition discounts and registration preference.

This policy is consistent with similar policies in other parishes in our immediate area. And, unless the member of the parish is known by the pastor or the parish staff as regular attendees at Mass, the use of envelopes becomes the principle way for a parish to document Mass attendance. If an individual is unknown to the pastoral staff and we are unable to determine whether a person attends Mass on a regular basis, it becomes impossible to sign a sponsor certificate, (which states the person seeking to be a sponsor regularly practices the faith) and impossible to approve discounted tuition at Diocesan parochial schools... It is also impossible for us to authorize tuition discounts or registration preferences for our Religious Education program. The use of envelopes (or checks) is not about money – it is about Mass attendance, it is about justice – it is about accountability and our ability to better serve you. Your understanding and cooperation is deeply appreciated. Fr. Bob