

Supporting St. Elizabeth Parish in 2010

The following Q&As are intended to help you as you consider your support for 2010.

Q. What is being asked of St. Elizabeth parishioners this fall?

A. First, we ask parishioners to consider all that St. E's is and does, and the financial resources the parish requires to sustain its life and all its good work. Then we ask that parishioners determine their financial support on a yearly basis and let us know what they intend to give overall in 2010.

Q. Why are we doing this again this year?

A. Annual support allows SEOH to predict its income more accurately. When your financial support is given in a planned, proportional, and prayerful manner, you allow the parish to plan and carry out its many ministries more efficiently and reliably.

Q. What happens if my financial situation changes during the year?

A. Indicating your financial support is simply your best estimate of what you can give to your parish during 2010. It is **not** a legally binding commitment. You can always change your support depending on your situation.

Q. What happens if parishioners' support falls behind budgeted income?

A. We have to balance our budget just as you do at home. If income is not sufficient, the finance council and pastor will have to make adjustments in spending, which may result in reducing or eliminating some parish ministries and programs. A shortfall also means putting off needed maintenance of parish property.

Q. What happens to the money parishioners give to St. Elizabeth Parish?

A. The money given to St. Elizabeth's is used almost entirely to carry out its community and pastoral missions, provide compensation and benefits to staff, meet its various obligations and sustain programs and property. A small amount is used to support the hospital ministry in the Archdiocese of Boston and this year we will pay a school tax to support Catholic schools.

Q. When will we be asked to decide on our financial support?

A. In about two weeks each household will receive a support card and information to assist parishioners in deciding their 2010 contribution level. The support card can be returned at Mass on the weekend of November 14-15 or by mail.

Q. Can you give me any guidance on what I should plan to give?

A. One commonly used benchmark is an hour's worth of weekly income, assuming it is full-time. This amounts to 1/40th or 2.5% of weekly income. Of course, some people cannot give at this level while others can give considerably more. We ask everyone to try to increase his/her contribution by at least 4% over last year. The parish asks for everyone's best effort and sincerely thanks all who contribute whatever they can.

Q. What is the best way to contribute during the year?

A. Contribute by whatever means you find easy, comfortable and reliable. The parish strongly recommends Electronic Funds Transfer. EFT is a safe, efficient, and easy way to send money from your bank account to St. Elizabeth's bank account. You simply tell us how much you wish to give for the year and money will be transferred once a month from your account to St. Elizabeth's account. You do not need a computer to use EFT. Parishioners have told us that they like EFT because it makes supporting the parish easy and reliable. More information will be in your support package.

Q. Is it hard to sign up for EFT or change my regular contribution level?

A. No, not at all. You simply fill out the back of the support card, sign it, and return it to us with a voided check. That's all there is to it. And yes, you can change your contribution amount at any time by calling the Parish office.

Thank you for reading and considering this. We hope this Q&A helps you to understand the parish's financial affairs and the importance of supporting it. If you have additional questions, please feel free to speak to one of us.

The Parish Finance Council - (John Morris, Gary Kilpatrick, Jodi Schroll, Tricia Flaum, Patti Foye, Steve Doucette, Tina Connors, Billy Soo, Chris Brolin, Fr. Walter Woods)