



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Methods of Giving

St. Mary's provides many ways for you to contribute – as simple as placing cash in the weekly collection plate or as complex as a retirement fund transfer or donation of stock. Please complete a Pledge Card for your intended contributions so that they can be included in our budgeting process.



St. Mary's website supports credit card and bank account debits. *We encourage the use of online donations as much as possible* and those donations can be one-time or repetitive. *We do not* support mail-in contributions by credit card or bank account information to ensure the security of your financial information.

Every contribution you make to St. Mary's is tax deductible, but two methods can provide additional tax benefits: the contribution of stock and a donation from your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Check with your accountant or financial advisor for specifics that apply to you.



Contribute by Cash or Check

Checks can be mailed or placed in the collection plate; cash is placed in the collection plate. These contributions can be one-time or repetitive.

Contribute through a Credit or Debit Card or a direct Bank Transfer



We have implemented new systems to facilitate giving online from our website, with a smartphone app, and from the streaming service. You can utilize Credit/Debit Cards and Bank Transfers online and make automatic payments on a one-time or recurring basis.

For Credit/Debit cards, you provide your complete contact and card information (card number, expiration date, and security code). St. Mary's then automatically charges that on a one-time or recurring basis, based on your specification.

Many banks now support automated bill payment transfers which allow direct charges from outside sources/vendors. You give "permission" to charge your bank account and St. Mary's automatically charges for those funds on the agreed basis.

If you are using the automated contribution method, you should complete the online SecureGive "Online Giving" form on the St. Mary's website Donate Page. Specific instructions for completing this form are contained in the "Using Web to Contribute" instructions. If you wish to set-up an electronic contribution manually, you can contact the church office.



Contributing through a Bank Bill Payment System

Many banks now support the ability to pay bills and obligations through an internal bill payment system. Payments can be single or repetitive payments and executed via a wire transfer or check. You can use this method if you do not want to divulge your bank account information.

To actualize this, you set up the church as a payee, specifying the church identification, address, bank routing number, and bank account number if the payment is to be a wire transfer, or simply the church identification and address if the payment is to be via check.



Contributing from an IRA RMD

When you reach age 72, you are required to take annual distributions from your Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and that Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is taxable income.

You can make all or part of your RMD to St. Mary's via a disbursement and potentially gain a tax benefit. Contributions are always tax deductible on the following year's taxes as an itemized deduction, but you might get the benefit of not having the RMD disbursement charged to you as taxable income which might lower your tax bracket. Here are some important rules:

- Contributions can only come from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) not from a Pension Fund or a Money Purchase Fund
- The contribution can be made at any time during the year
- The contribution must come directly from your IRA to St. Mary's, you cannot receive the funds personally then contribute them to St. Mary's or you will lose the tax avoidance on income
- You can contribute all or part of your RMD, but with an upper limit of \$100,000.00
- The distribution does not count as income to you, reducing your gross income
- You do not get a double benefit. You can choose to EITHER contribute directly and reduce your gross income OR take the contribution as an itemize deduction

To actualize an RMD distribution, you must complete a specific form with your IRA Trustee. Investment Banks support the ability to disburse RMD funds by check or by wire transfer.



Contributing Financial Assets or Securities

If you hold equities and seek to make a contribution at the current value of those equities while avoiding capital gains, you can contribute equities directly to St. Mary's. You benefit by making a current value contribution at your initial investment cost. Here are some important rules:

- You may donate appreciated stock, mutual funds, EFTs, and bonds held more than one year (assets held less than one year are valued at your cost)
- You may contribute assets valued at up to 30% of your Adjusted Gross Income in the current tax year; excess amounts are carried forward
- You receive a tax deduction equal to the *current market value* of the asset, assuming you are able to itemize your deductions
- If you hold the stock certificates, St Mary's can accept them with your endorsement
- You will pay NO capital gains tax

The same rules apply to donated real estate. Banks, brokerage firms, and mutual fund institutions will require a letter of instruction or letter of authorization to transfer assets to St. Mary's. They wire the assets to a specific St. Mary's account at Northern Trust. Northern Trust liquidates the asset immediately and transfers the proceeds to St. Mary's bank account. You must work closely with the church office to coordinate all parties, information, and timing. Please allow several weeks to complete the process (to anticipate completion before December 31).

Note on Wire Transfers

To wire funds, you must have the church's wire transfer instructions. The church's bank routing number and bank account number can be obtained by calling the church office.

When a wire transfer is made, you may not be identified personally in the routing instructions. In order to properly attribute the transfer to your pledge, please inform the church office of the pending transfer: the transferring bank, the amount, and the timing of the transfer. This ensures that the church knows the contribution came from you and can send you an acknowledgement.