

NEW OFFERTORY COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Beginning next weekend, our faithful and conscientious Ushers have recommended that we begin a new procedure for taking up the Offertory Collection, a system that many other churches have been using for years.

Instead of using the long-handled baskets that are shoved under your noses (and which some seem to artfully ignore), they'll be handing small baskets to those at the end of the pews in the center aisle and to those at the end of the side aisle pews. You'll be asked to drop your offering in the basket before passing it on to the person closest to you. When the basket in your row gets to the other end (or to the wall), you can pass it on to the person behind you or an usher will be there to assist you in moving the basket back to the next populated pew.

To be honest, this may add a minute or two to the collection time; but it should also help to emphasize the personal responsibility every parishioner has to fulfill one of the seven Precepts of the Church: to contribute to the support of one's parish. And if you contribute electronically and don't want to feel guilty, you can drop in an offertory envelope and check the box that indicates your electronic giving option.

But please be patient as we begin this new procedure because it might take a while to get the bugs worked out. Our Ushers will be practicing soon to help ensure that all will proceed smoothly. I continue to be grateful to them for their generous service.

Fr. Bob