

First Fruits

A New Way to Support Your Parish Community

Beginning the September, Sacred Hearts parishioners can participate in a program of automated giving. The main benefit of automated giving is that it enables our parish to better support our ministries with a more consistent parish offertory. When you enroll in First Fruits, Sacred Hearts will receive your weekly or monthly offertory gift regardless of the weather and even if you are away from the community for business or pleasure. In other words it makes the support of your parish an equal priority to all those things in our lives which receive our attention and support.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does this automated giving program, called First Fruits, help the parish?

First Fruits helps Sacred Hearts by allowing us to better forecast our income and, we hope, by leveling out large swings in income between the summer and winter months. This will strengthen our ability to develop ministry programs with the assurance that we will have the revenue to meet expenses on a year-round basis. Currently the church collects roughly half of its income in just four out of the twelve months of the year. *First Fruits* is being implemented to smooth out the uncertainty that is caused by this unbalanced fluctuation.

If my family signs up for First Fruits, what will we place in the collection basket on Sunday?

Our weekly envelopes will now include a box to be checked to notify us that you and your family are *First Fruits* donors. We ask that you simply continue to use your envelopes and rather than putting in a donation, you simply just check the box that says, "I/we contribute through *First Fruits*."

Would I be able to make Holy Day and special gift offerings with First Fruits?

Yes. There will be an option to specify Holy Day and special gift offerings when you register. These offerings as well your regular weekly contributions can be changed at any time by emailing parishoffice@shjmbasilica.org or by simply calling the parish office.

What are the privacy safeguards that exist with this program?

The *First Fruits* program is simply an exchange of funds between your bank and the parish. Only our business office will have access to your enrollment form. Your personal information is completely confidential. In other words, automated giving is even more secure than a paper check.

Will I be mailed a statement that details how much I have given in the fiscal year for my year-end tax reporting?

Yes. You will be mailed a statement that will clearly show weekly and Holy Day or special gift offerings contributions.

How do I sign up and can I change the amount at any time?

A registration form will be distributed later this month so that you can sign up. If you wish to change your weekly gift, you will simply email or call the parish office to notify us of the change. Our telephone number is 1-631-283-0097 and email address is parishoffice@shjmbasilica.org.

What happens if I want to cancel automated donations, change my donation, or suspend donations for a time?

All you need to do is contact our parish office. As long as we receive your request 2 business days before the next scheduled transfer we can make the adjustment.



firstFruits is a new and more convenient way for parishioners of Sacred Hearts to support our parish.

By signing up for automatic giving from a bank account, parishioners who enroll in firstFruits are saying that their faith is a priority for them, the gift for which they are grateful and the sustaining of which they do not want to leave up to chance.

ENROLLMENT FORM

Please circle Weekly or Monthly: _____ (Note: Total contribution will be debited on the 15th of the month, or the next business day. If you choose Weekly, the contribution will be debited on Mondays.)
Offertory contribution: \$ _____

I would like to enroll in the firstFruits program. I understand that my total contribution amount will be transferred directly from my checking account as stated above, and a record of my gifts will appear on my bank statement and my transfers will begin next month. A statement of my generosity for the year will be sent to me at the beginning of the new year. I understand that I can increase, decrease, or suspend my giving at any time by simply calling the rectory office at 631-283-0097 {All gifts provided to your Church originating as Automated Clearing House transactions comply with U.S. law.}

Signature: X _____ Date: _____

Name(s): (please print) _____

Church Envelope #: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

It is possible to contribute in this way even if you are a part time member or also a member of another parish. We will assign an account number to you.

For Checking Account Debit: Please return your completed form and either a copy of your voided check or fill out the bank and account numbers below. Send to: First Fruits Enrollment, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, 168 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968.

Credit Card Debit: We are not yet able to take credit card debits. If you would be interested in having the parish offer this program please contact the rectory office.

The Name of your bank: _____

Bank Routing Number: _____ Left group of numbers on your check.

Your Checking Account Number: _____ Right group of numbers on your check.

“Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you come into the land which I am giving you, and reap your harvest, you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest as a thanksgiving offering.” Leviticus 23:10