



# When scammers pose as clergy

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.

Therefore, be as cunning as serpents and yet as innocent as doves.”

Matthew 10:16

## Four Signs That It's a Scam

1. Scammers pretend to be a person from an organization you know and trust asking for money.
2. Scammers say there's a problem and that they need your help.
3. Scammers pressure you to act immediately (before you have time to think).
4. Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way such as gift cards or a money transfer service.

Condensed from a Federal Trade Commission website  
<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam>

## When in doubt, check it out

**THIS STRATEGY HOLDS** for any requests for funds that appear to come from institutions with which you have financial dealings: rather than responding to the communication, contact the party directly by established means you trust.

A call to the parish office may ensure that your generosity will meet a legitimate need.

## How to tell if it's Not your pastor

STM clergy will not text you, email you or call you asking for checks, gift cards, or atm withdrawals and never with a claim of "urgency" that demands your immediate response.

## Legitimate communications

You are more likely to hear from us through normal means such as

- A call from the parish office number
- An email from an address ending in stmkc.com.
- Mailings on STM stationery
- Parish bulletin