



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

Our 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.

Artificial Intelligence technology can sometimes use “voice cloning” to mimic the cadence, tone and dialect of clergy or other ministerial leaders. If unsure, do not commit to assistance.

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 with the same domain name as our website (clergyname@stmkc.com).
- Mailings on church stationery
- Parish bulletin