

As you may have seen in recent news reports, a phishing scam has been affecting a small number of parishes within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This scam involves parishioners receiving a text message, email, or robotic call from a source alleging to be the pastor of the local parish. These messages contain a request for parishioners to purchase gift cards for a parish fundraiser and then send the gift card numbers back to the scammer claiming to be the pastor.

Those parishes affected are taking steps to communicate with parishioners to engender awareness and vigilance. You may wish to take this opportunity to remind parishioners in your own communities that they should report to law enforcement any suspicious requests for donations or other funds. You may also wish to share what methods your parish frequently uses to communicate about fundraising initiatives in order to avoid confusion and prevent parishioners from falling prey to scammers. Thank you.