

# Scam Alert: Gift Card/Donation Email Scam



Please be advised that there are several nationwide scams that have affected several parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The scams come in several forms but resemble the following scenarios:

## **Gift Card Scam**

In this scam, the parishioners of a parish are the targets. An unknown person creates an e-mail address account which contains the pastor's name or the name of the church. An e-mail is then sent to the parishioners requesting them to purchase a gift card and proceeded to tell the unknown person the numbers off of the back of the cards. After the person received the numbers, they stopped sending emails.

## **Donation or Fundraising Campaign Scam**

A variation of the gift card scam involves a phony donation campaign which uses the story and/or picture of an ill parishioner or family member. Again, this is not legitimate and should be ignored.

**There have been several fake emails sent out using Fr. Anthony Costa as the sender. As always, if you see an e-mail that is suspicious, do not click on any links inside of the e-mail, do not give away any personal or financial information, and delete the e-mail.**