



Dear Parish Family:

Some parishioners have brought to my attention today that they have received an email from me, "Fr. John Gabriel" asking for financial assistance. As a reminder, please read the following from the Archdiocese of Newark and **PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO ANY EMAIL OF THIS NATURE.**

From the diocese:

We have heard of numerous and varied phone calls, emails, and text scams in recent months. In many instances, the scammers have stepped up their game, researching parish/school/clergy/staff information online (parish bulletins, websites, etc.), which then allows them to customize the scam to seem more legitimate.

As a periodic reminder, please beware of electronic messages that are seemingly from a parish or archdiocesan priest asking for money or gift cards because of some urgent need, such as helping patients in a hospital. These are fraudulent phishing and scam emails.

Please be assured that no priest of the Archdiocese would ever legitimately ask for funds or gifts in this way. You are encouraged not to respond to such messages and to report any incident to the New Jersey Cyber Crimes Unit.

Please alert your parish/school community that you never solicit via email or text messages and that they should view any such a communication/inquiry as suspicious and contact the parish/school office directly. Anyone who believes they are a victim of this type of scam should report the scam to the New Jersey Cyber Crimes Unit at (609) 584-5051, ext. 5664, or online at <https://www.njsp.org/division/investigations/cyber->

>GIFT CARD SCAM ALERT: Please beware of fraudulent emails or text messages claiming to be from a pastor or a representative of the archdiocese asking you to purchase gift cards to help the poor or sick. Such fraudulent activity should be reported to the State of New Jersey Cyber Crimes Unit at (609) 584-5051, ext. 5664, or online at >www.njsp.org/division/investigations/cyber-crimes.shtml>. Please feel free to call the parish or school office to validate the authenticity of any suspicious email claiming to be from our priests or staff.

Thank you for your vigilance.

Fr. John