

**CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCES (PAR) -- 2023**

What is PAR? St. Thomas has a direct-debit arrangement known as the Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR) program. Many Anglican parishes use this method of giving, and we encourage you to consider it.

How does it work? Simply fill in the attached PAR Authorization Form, sign it and attach a sample blank cheque from your account marked "VOID". We will send it to the United Church in Toronto that provides the service to a number of Anglican churches Canada-wide. The bank does the rest.

How much does it cost? It costs you nothing. St. Thomas' pays 50 cents monthly. **If more than 90 members participate, the monthly cost to the church will stay at \$45.00. We're over 90 members at present, so as we grow the monthly cost to the church will stay the same.**

When each month is the transfer made? Close to the 20th day of the month.

What if circumstances change and I wish to give more or less each month? Simply complete a revised PAR Authorization Form. Allow a month for the change to take effect. A new voided cheque is not required unless you wish to change the bank account from which the contribution is taken.

How do I decide how much to give each month? In calculating the monthly equivalent of weekly offerings remember that, on average, there are 4.33 weeks per month: (52 weeks ÷ 12 months). Examples:

<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Equivalent Monthly Offering</u>
15	65
50	220
100	440, etc.

What do I do with my envelopes? Use them for special offerings or appeals, or to augment your monthly PAR commitment. For 2023, you'll receive a special, smaller set of envelopes for PAR members.

What happens if I change my bank and/or bank account? Simply fill in the attached PAR Authorization Form, sign it and attach a sample blank cheque from your new account marked "VOID".

How do current PAR members change their pledge for 2023? Complete the attached PAR Authorization Form with your new pledge, WITHOUT a voided cheque, and attach it to your Response Form.

If you have any questions, call the Envelope Secretary, Flo Cheesman at 521-6052 (after 6:00pm), or email her at: stthomasenv@outlook.com

Here's what some current PAR participants say about PAR:

"We love PAR because:

1. We do not have to scurry around last thing on Sunday morning finding a cheque book and writing a cheque.
2. We use far fewer cheques now – saves paper, saves us money.
3. We find that we are not in the least embarrassed to pass on the offering plate at a service. (This concerned some people, but so many are on PAR now that it is an accepted practice.)"
4. When we return from vacation, we no longer have to figure out how much we owe.
5. As members of a counting team, it saves a lot of time in the count room. If we all go this route, the count will become much easier!"

"We would like others contemplating using PAR to know that we are very pleased to have chosen this method for this past year and will continue next year as well. It is great for those of us who travel or go away in the winter. No more issues of finding the envelopes and/or the money to put in them. There have been no errors or mistakes (too much or too little taken out of our account.) We would highly recommend going with PAR!"

"It's just so convenient. For us – no last minute Sunday scramble to find a chequebook, and we know that if we're away, we can still support the church. For the church – quicker counting and easier administration. It's a win-win!"