

“Fraud Alert”

The Chancery was recently contacted about active scammers within the diocese. The scam is a variant of one used in the past: an email from the pastor's email address is sent requesting iTunes gift cards for cancer patients. Currently, only one parish in the diocese has been targeted. Be mindful that while scammers usually make appeals via email, they will also send texts and make phone calls. If you have been targeted and bought gift cards, please do not provide the card number or the PIN. Once this is done the scammers can use the card immediately and the money is gone without a trace.

If you suspect you are being targeted by scammers impersonating your pastor, contact the parish to speak directly with the pastor. Gift card companies can also be contacted: iTunes, 1-800-275-2273; Amazon, 1-888-280-4331, Google Play, 1-855-466-4438.

Lastly, if you are a victim of the scam, please come forward and contact your parish. Making others aware that scammers are targeting a parish will hopefully protect against future victims.