

Offertory Count Procedure Guidelines –

Locations should use pre-numbered, tamperproof bags for each mass.

There should be a master list (log) of the numbers in sequence of the pre-numbered tamperproof bags. Write the date on the master list beside of the corresponding bag number on the list when pulling the bags for use.

Immediately after the collection leaves the sanctuary, at least two unrelated people should put the entire collection for the mass in one of the pre-numbered tamperproof bags, seal and initial the bag before putting the bag in the safe or other secure area.

No one person should ever be alone with the funds.

The tamperproof bags should stay in the safe or other designated secure area until the count team arrives. A member of the count team should accompany the staff person retrieving the bags.

The count team should compare the numbers printed on the bags they are opening to the numbers on the master list for the weekend and report any discrepancies to the Pastor and the Business Manager/Bookkeeper.

Check the bags for any slits, taped or folded over areas, suggesting unauthorized access.

Conduct the count in an area that is away from outside windows that could allow easy visibility and possible risk.

Ideally, there should be rotating count teams consisting of three unrelated individuals, not including the parish staff.

One role should be observing the count, recording totals and verifying before completing the deposit ticket.

The count team should separate envelopes and cash.

The members of the count team should open the envelopes, not the parish bookkeeper or secretary.

If there is cash in an envelope, write or verify the amount on the outside of the envelope. Keep this cash and the associated envelopes in a separate pile. After opening all envelopes, count the cash that was in envelopes and compare to the amounts written on the envelopes.

Sort cash by denominations. An initial member of the count team should count and record the total of each denomination. As the first counter finishes, they pass the denomination to another member of the count team for the same process. The two members should compare totals and recount if there are any discrepancies.

Write the currency and coin totals on the count sheet and a deposit ticket. Use the same deposit book each week so the cash and currency total deposits are visible and easily accessible.

A member of the count team should run a tape of the checks on a calculator. The same person can run a second tape to compare totals or another member can run a tape of the checks to compare. When the tape totals agree, attach the tapes to the master count sheet. Write the number of checks on the

tape if the calculator does not provide. Give the checks to the parish bookkeeper to complete the deposit.

When the counting process is complete all members of the count team should sign the count sheet.

When the bookkeeper takes the checks and cash to finish the deposit the bookkeeper should take all coins and related count materials and support. Leave nothing in the count room after the count is complete.

After making the actual deposit, attach a copy of the deposit ticket stamped from the bank to the count sheet to verify the total dollars and numbers of checks match.

Keep the count sheets and all support, including envelopes for a period of three months. (The time may change as we progress further with guidelines but it is a good starting point for now.)

Give all envelopes to the person entering data in the subsidiary software (PDS, Razor's Edge, etc.) with the cash envelopes on top.

Reconcile the subsidiary report to the bank deposit record and Quick Books Pro.