



# 5 Reasons Your Parish Needs a Parishioner Portal





## *Life is busy.*

Work, school, family time, extracurricular activities...all the things families in your parish have going on throughout the week. So where do your members spend much of their time connecting and planning their busy schedules? Online!

We all go online for so many things, such as online banking, viewing local events and places to visit, checking our email accounts, and so much more. Online access to all of those makes our managing and planning our social life, work life, and family life less stressful.

Well, parish life should be no different!

What if your parish family had a way to do all those things — connect with other members, view a calendar of activities, manage their contributions — in one place online when they are away from your parish?

That's just the beginning of why your parish needs a parishioner portal. This guide gives you five reasons you need an online portal for your parishioners and what you should be looking for in a parishioner portal.



# Build Connections

Connection is at the very heart of human nature. We want to know we can reach out to others and share life with them. That connection is what builds your members from being those sitting in Mass each week to an actual parish family.

How can your members connect throughout the week?

A parishioner portal that delivers a parish directory is the perfect way to do just that. Seeing others in the parish and having access to their contact information allows your members to reach out and connect outside of Mass. Plus, an online portal that is mobile-friendly means on-the-go access from anywhere with their smartphones.



# Strengthen your parish family.

While talking to others through text or on the phone is wonderful, especially on those busy days, we still want to be around others and enjoy their company. This is why your parish plans activities and events for your members. Being around others who share common beliefs and celebrating special occasions together strengthens your parish family.

But how frustrating is it for your members when they have to search your parish website, social media pages, or bulletins just to find details of a parish activity they're interested in attending?

Having a parishioner portal means your parishioners can quickly access your parish calendar in the same place day after day. They can see details about events and view Mass times to plan for their families and invite others to join.



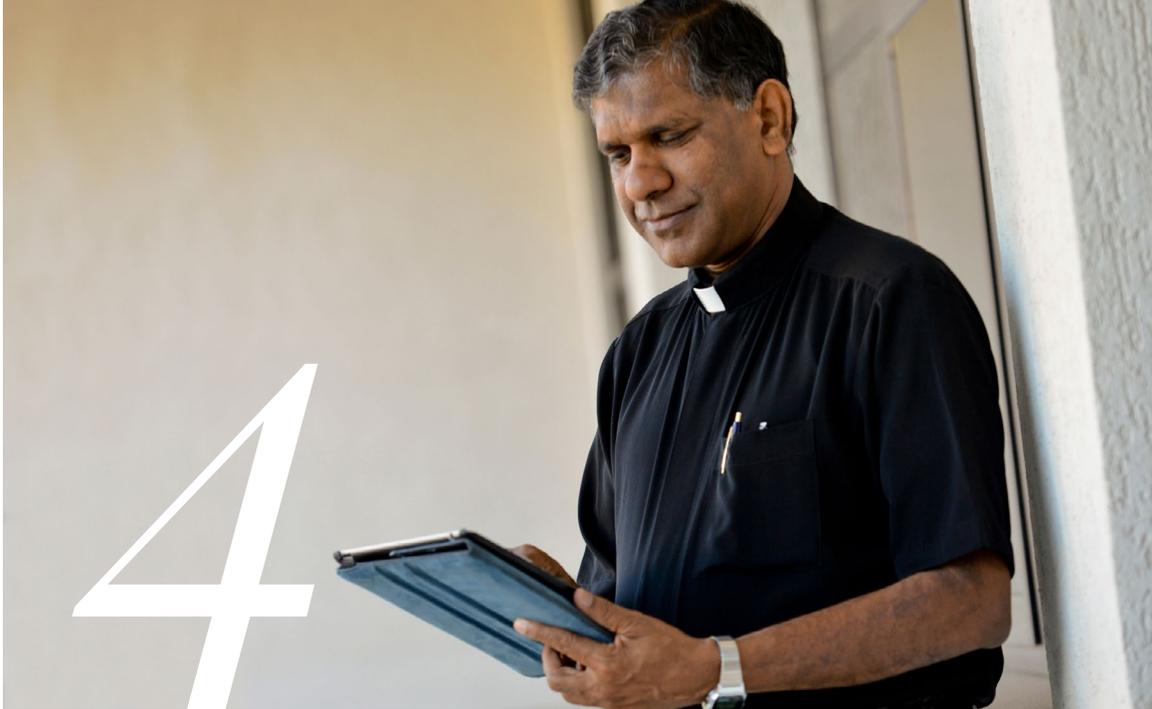
# Remove barriers on contributions.

We've all been there...on vacation, unable to attend Mass due to sickness, or having to work during Mass time and feeling as though we aren't faithful as we aren't able to make our contributions.

How can you provide your parishioners with ways to give in those situations?

A parishioner portal with giving options that allows your members to give online removes barriers they are facing with being faithful with their contributions. Plus, they can review their contribution history at their convenience through the online portal.

Having the parishioner portal integrated with your church database will also save your parish staff time and reduce the manual errors as they can import contributions made within the parishioner portal.



# Reduce returned mail and bounced emails.

Part of being a connected parish with parishioners who are involved and informed is communicating with them. But how do you do that if you don't have their correct contact information?

Some parishes have an online form for their members to complete, while others depend on their parishioners to call the parish office with updates. But both of those not only involve the member stopping what they are doing to make time to find the form on your website or the parish office phone number, but also involves manual entry on your parish office staff. And of course, manual entry means room for error.

What if you had a way to make it quick and easy for members to update their information while also syncing that data with your parish database?

That's exactly why a parishioner portal is necessary. Giving your members control over their profiles means they can update their information quickly as it changes. Plus, a parishioner portal that integrates with your database gives you a data sync to update your records without manual entry.



# Share parish life updates.

We all want to know what's going on - with our friends, in our families, at our jobs. The same goes for your parishioners. They want to know what's happening in the life of your parish.

However, unless they take the time to sit and read your newsletter or constantly check your website, they are probably missing news about your parish.

Well, remember when we said parishioners want to have one place they can go to find what they need online?

Use that to your parish's advantage. An online parishioner portal that gives you space to share announcements with your members keeps them in-the-know so they can be better plugged into your ministry.



# *A parishioner portal doesn't replace, but enhances in-person interactions.*

We know what you're thinking...we want a parishioner portal but we don't want our members only connected with us in that way. But a parishioner portal does exactly the opposite.

Instead of conversations with your members being solely about small details of parish activities, their contributions, or the sharing of contact information for another member, they can access all of that information independently. Which means they now have time to interact in a more meaningful way.

A parishioner portal empowers your parish family to share parish life together.

# Choosing the Right Ministry Partner

## **The know-how you need from experts you trust.**

ACS Technologies is the original pioneer of Church Management Software (ChMS). We are firmly dedicated to serving local churches all over North America by providing the best-in-class ministry software and service solutions that help you fulfill Christ's mission for your Church.

## **Tools and support to strengthen churches.**

We build great software, but we don't stop there. We have a "service-first" approach that truly sets us apart. With hundreds of dedicated support and consulting personnel, your staff can reach our team 24/7. We're in your corner to help you with the ministry challenges you face every day.

## **Ideas and solutions powered by integrity.**

Integrity is real for us, and it means consistently being faithful stewards by doing the right thing for church success. We have earned the trust of pastors, church staff, congregants, our employees, and colleagues for over 40 years.

## **A plan to meet your needs and move your ministry.**

We're not just interested in satisfied customers. We see ourselves as your real ministry partner and will work with you to make disciples that will last for an eternity. We're excited to talk about your goals, create a plan together, and set you up with the software, service, and resources you need.

## **We believe in YOU!**

ACS Technologies believes in the local church. Over 75% of our team has experience serving in their local churches. We know firsthand that serving the Church means serving people, and we take seriously our commitment to helping ministries like yours achieve their God-given mandate - to make disciples in their communities, states, and across the world.

## Let's Talk

We know the challenges of switching or implementing new technology and how that can be intimidating. But we also know the unbelievable changes that have happened within churches that have partnered with us for their ministry needs. Let's connect and see how we can assist you in the greatest thing you do - grow God's Kingdom.

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