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## **St. Jude the Apostle Parish announces Winavette car raffle refund process**

St. Jude the Apostle Parish announced the launch of a formal refund process for all individuals who purchased tickets for the St. Jude the Apostle Parish 2024 Winavette Car Raffle. This step comes in the wake of an internal audit and amid an ongoing investigation by the District Attorney’s Office into issues surrounding the raffle.

After a thorough independent review, a legally compliant redo of the raffle is not possible under Pennsylvania’s Small Games of Chance law, and for that reason, the parish will issue refunds to all those participants that request a refund.

“With the full support of our bishop, and to ensure full compliance with laws pertaining to Small Games of Chance, I determined that the most responsible and compliant course of action is to issue full refunds for the 2024 Winavette Car Raffle,” said Father Mike Polinek, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish. “I am grateful for the community’s understanding and trust as we work through this process with full transparency.”

To ensure accuracy, neutrality and fairness, the parish has retained HBK, an independent accounting firm, to oversee the refund process – including verification of ticket sales, reconciliation of records and issuance of refunds.

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## How to Request a Refund

Individuals who purchased 2024 Winavette car raffle tickets may request a refund between **December 6, 2025, and January 3, 2026**, through one of the following methods:

- Call the designated phone number for this process at (888)-341-6210 or (814)-217-8901. Please leave your name, phone number or email address and proof of purchase information.
- Email [stjude.refund2024@outlook.com](mailto:stjude.refund2024@outlook.com). Please email your name, phone number or email address, and proof of purchase information.

The phone number and email address are unique for this process and managed by the accounting firm. Due to insufficient records, the accounting firm will issue refunds to the best of their ability using the original method of payment whenever possible. Cash purchases will be refunded by check. Once the refund-request period closes on January 3, verification will begin and may take several weeks. Once verification has occurred, refunds will then be issued within 10 business days. Purchasers will receive confirmation once their refund has been processed.

The parish has also confirmed that the Corvette previously associated with the raffle was returned to the original dealership, and the funds were deposited back to the parish.

For more information, including the refund process and FAQ, visit <https://www.eriercd.org/refund.html>

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