



# The Diocese of Algoma

## **Fundraising – Amber Stage**

The Archbishop's policy for onsite fundraisers such as dinners, yard sales, thrift stores, and so on remains in effect; these initiatives are not permitted at this time.

As is true for education/formation opportunities and meetings, congregations are urged to engage in online fundraising initiatives. Indeed, this is an excellent opportunity to try new and less physically intensive approaches to fundraising.

There is a desire in some congregations to bake pies or prepare preserves as a means of raising funds. Such activities should be infrequent and may only take place:

- If distancing, cleaning, and disinfecting protocols of the Amber Stage can be observed strictly at all times;
- If the practices concerning such food preparation meet the requirements and guidelines of your local health unit.

Information available via provincial and regional health authorities states that COVID-19 is not stable at cooking temperatures. Cooking and reheating food to recommended internal temperatures should inactivate this virus.

Likewise, to date, health units serving the geographical regions of the Diocese state there is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread through food made by infected people. COVID-19 is spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets. Though no cases have been reported of such transmission with COVID-19, there is always a risk that a person infected with COVID-19 could spread the virus by sneezing on food, by aerosol produced by speech, or by directly touching food with their hands.

Therefore, use good hygiene practices when handling food. Avoid bare hand contact. For example, use utensils, deli napkins, or dispensing equipment to handle food. Engage in frequent hand washing with plain soap and water to reduce risk of transmission when preparing foods.

If you are sick with COVID-19, are showing symptoms characteristic of COVID-19, have been exposed to someone who is infected or showing symptoms, or have traveled outside of the country within the previous fourteen days, do not prepare or handle food for others.

As always, observe strict food hygiene practices such as the following:

- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Perishables should be properly stored or refrigerated to inhibit bacterial growth and to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.
- When using any cleaning product on food surfaces, ensure the cleaner is intended for use directly on food and follow label directions to avoid intoxication as a result of chemical contamination.
- Note that the use of soap on food is not recommended, as ingestion of soap can result in intoxication and gastrointestinal symptoms
- General food safety tips including the recommendation to wash fruits and vegetables under cold running water
- Ensure foods are cooked to a sufficient internal temperature to avoid foodborne illness – this will depend on the type of food. Use a thermometer to ensure food has reached proper temperature.

For the pick-up or delivery of food:

- Provide clear instructions, if items are to be collected from the church. Schedule pick up times and space out sufficiently so people can drive to the church building, and those handing over the items can wash or sanitize their hands between pick-up's.
- Consider having people remain with their vehicle when picking up their items.
- Consider having those picking up items open the trunk (or, if necessary, the car door) so the person loading does not touch car handles, and so items can be placed directly inside rather than passed from person to person.
- Those providing the items during the pick up should wear masks.
- If possible, provide a means for people to pay online, or use another form of cashless electronic payment.
- If a touch-free form of payments is not feasible, minimize the handling of money as happens for in-person worship. Provide a means for people to drop a cheque or the exact amount of cash in a basket or other suitable receptacle.
- If dropping items off at someone's home, the delivery person should wear a mask and always maintain a safe distance (2 metres) from those receiving items and remain outside the home.
- Counsel people to remove their items from the external packaging and dispose of the latter in the garbage or recycling right away.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wash your hands well for 30 seconds or use hand sanitizer before and after touching packaging.