



The Diocese of Algoma

Fundraising – Amber Stage – November 2021 Update

Congregations are encouraged to engage in online fundraising initiatives. Indeed, this is an excellent opportunity to try new and less physically intensive approaches to fundraising.

Outdoor Yard Sales

- For workers, masks must be worn, two-metre physical distancing maintained between individuals or social bubbles, and frequent hand hygiene practiced after handling money or items used by others. It is strongly recommended that workers be fully vaccinated.
- Hand sanitizer should be available to patrons at the entrance and exit from the area, and/or at easily accessible locations.
- The vaccination policy of the Diocese must be followed for all workers, patrons, and guests. The policy is available here:
<https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/about-the-diocese-of-agloma/covid-19-pandemic-response/>

Bazaars, Thrift Stores, etc.

Parishes may hold bazaars or operate their ‘thrift stores’ with the following protocols in place:

- Capacity limits will need to be set for each room in which the bazaar takes place or in which the thrift store is operated. Capacity limits can be determined by using this calculator:
<https://www.retailcouncil.org/coronavirus-info-for-retailers/store-capacity-calculator/ontario/> (Choose the option ‘all other non-essential retail with exterior door’)
- Workers need to be posted at the doors to control access in order to ensure capacity limits are not exceeded. As well, volunteers will be required in each area to assist in crowd control. (For example, to ensure eager customers do not crowd the baked goods table, but rather maintain physically distancing.)
- Capacity limits for a room must be posted at all entrances to the room.

- If there is more than one access point to a room, it is advisable to use one as an entrance and another as an exit. If access to a space is limited to one doorway or a narrow staircase, congregations will need to devise a system to ensure people can enter and exit safely, limiting proximity to others entering or exiting the space.
- As much as possible, only well-ventilated spaces should be used. Natural ventilation can be improved by opening windows and doors to the outside as weather permits, and if it does not pose a safety risk to occupants. For more guidance on indoor ventilation, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/guide-indoor-ventilation-covid-19-pandemic.html#a7>
- For workers, masks must be worn, two-metre physical distancing maintained between individuals or social bubbles, and frequent hand hygiene practiced after handling money or items used by others. For indoor fundraising events, workers must be fully vaccinated.
- All workers and shoppers must wear facemasks that fully cover the nose and mouth. Plastic face shields of any type, worn without a facemask, are not sufficient. It is recommended that extra facemasks be available in case patrons forget to bring one. If patrons claim a medical exemption from wearing a facemask, congregations are permitted to refuse them entry, politely reminding them that, while they may have that right, we are not required to permit them access. In such instances, a hospitable response would be to offer to do a patron's shopping if they are seeking something specific.
- Hand sanitizer must be available to patrons at the entrance and exit from each room. In larger spaces, it is recommended that additional hand sanitizer dispensers be available.
- No "stay-in" tea or lunch may be served to customers. Congregations may sell coffee and cookies "to go" instead.
- The vaccination policy of the Diocese is to be followed for all workers, patrons, and guests. The policy is available here: <https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/about-the-diocese-of-algoma/covid-19-pandemic-response/> At the time of this protocol update, this means individuals eligible for vaccination entering church buildings for fundraising events such as bazaars are required to show proof they are fully vaccinated, and at least 14 days have passed since their second dose.
- Always check with your local public health authority on the specific advice for indoor gatherings for your location.

Many parishes are finding alternatives to holding bazaars during this time of pandemic, including creative fundraising efforts such as on-line auctions, taking

specific orders for baked goods or crafts, having a 'no work' bazaar where people donate both what they would have spent on making items for sale and on buying items.

Fundraising Meals

Onsite fundraising meals are not permitted at this time.

Other Food-related Fundraisers

Many congregations have a custom of baking pies or preparing preserves as a means of raising funds. Such activities are permitted, but may only take place:

- If masks are worn, and the required physical distancing is observed;
- If the practices concerning such food preparation, cleaning, and disinfecting protocols meet the requirements and guidelines of your local health unit.
- The vaccination policy of the Diocese is to be followed for all workers, patrons, and guests. The policy is available here:
<https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/about-the-diocese-of-agloma/covid-19-pandemic-response/>

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. Nevertheless, always 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.
- Those providing the items during the pick up should wear masks.
- 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.