

## **Fundraising Ideas during COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols**

**Bakeless Bake Sale:** Invite people to send in a donation (cheque, e-transfer) based on what they would have spent at a physical bake sale, either as a baker or a consumer of baked treats. Here is a poem that could go along with your invitation to participate:

A bit of news we have today,  
A Bakeless Bake Sale is on its way!  
In these busy days now, who could bake pies or cookies or even a cake?  
You'd be surprised if you counted the materials, heat and time it would take.  
Cooking for bake sales is a lot of extra work,  
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk!  
So we've thought of a plan that is truly grand,  
And we feel quite sure you will understand!  
In an envelope put the price of a pie, cake, or whatever you wish,  
Without fuss or bother you've done your part.  
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart.

**Online Silent Auction:** Have church members send pictures and descriptions (including value, minimum bid, location) of items they would like to donate to the online silent auction. Church's Facebook administrator creates a post with instructions for how the online silent auction will run. The post should include a single photo of each item with a brief description. People bid by entering a dollar amount in the comments section for the photo they are bidding on. At the publicized end date and time of the silent auction, the bidder with the highest bid is sent a private message with details on how to pay for and receive their item. Caution should be exercised in the pickup and delivery of items. Perhaps 1-2 volunteers should be responsible for curbside pick up of the items from the donors and curbside delivery to the winning bidder, wearing gloves and face masks and practicing frequent handwashing where feasible.

**Online Talent Auction:** Do you have members of your congregation with a special gift or talent? Poets? Songwriters? Painters? Storytellers? Caricature artist? You might be able to use the online auction to have people bid on commissioned works of art from other parishioners.

**Virtual Walkathon:** Have people collect pledges for how far they can walk, run, bike etc in a set period of time. This is a great idea for supporting an outreach ministry, for example PWRDF.

**COVID-19 Cookbook:** Ask parishioners to email their favourite recipe for getting through COVID-19 home isolation. Maybe it's a go-to comfort food, or a new recipe they've always wanted to try, or a new way to create an old recipe when you don't have the right ingredients on hand. If possible, have them include a photo or two. The contributions could be compiled into a PDF cookbook which could be mailed or emailed to people who wish to make a minimum donation by cheque or e-transfer.

**Online Photo Contest:** Ask parishioners to enter photographs (for a set fee) that will be included in the contest. The photographs could be open or along a specific theme (for example: spring flowers, food, pets, their sacred space at home). Once the photos are compiled people

are invited to vote for their favourite. If this is done on Facebook for example, a vote would be signified with a heart emoji ♥. At the end of the contest, the votes from registered voters would be counted and the photo with the most hearts would win. The prize could just be bragging rights or perhaps a portion of the donations collected could be directed to the outreach ministry of the winner's choosing.

**Online Gala:** Parishioners buy a ticket to an online gathering using Zoom or other preferred platform. Those who have bought a ticket will receive an email with instructions on how to join the gala. Everyone is invited to dress up (or dress down – turn it into a pajama party) and bring their favourite beverage and snacks at the appointed start time. Guests at the gala can speak with one another and the host could share videos of musical performances or whatever other talent people would like to share. The videos should be received by the host ahead of time. It's a fun way to have a social gathering and fundraise at the same time. You might be able to ask local artists to donate a short performance (do not stream these performances on other social media or post to YouTube without explicit permission from the artist).

**Blessings Scavenger Hunt:** Individuals donate money based on how many of each item they have in their home (see example below). You can customize the list and value of each item.

Item	Quantity	Pledge per item	Total
Bedrooms		\$5	
Bathrooms		\$5	
Shoes		\$1	
Cans of soup		\$0.50	
Small appliances		\$2	
Electrical plugs		\$0.25	
Motorized vehicles		\$10	
Pets		\$2	
Electronic devices (computers, cell phones, TVs, tablets, etc)		\$2	
Books		\$0.50	
Total Pledge			

**A word of caution:** Please continue to follow published protocols from the Diocese of Ontario and public health authorities. If you are planning to hold a fundraiser which includes sharing food, please ensure you meet the safe food handling guidelines along with physical distancing requirements and church use limitations. It may be better to partner with a local restaurant for take-out or delivery where a portion of the cost for the meal is apportioned to the church.

The Rev. Trish Miller

Chair – Stewardship & Congregational Development, Anglican Diocese of Ontario

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