

St. Peter the Apostle Antiochian Orthodox Church, San Dimas

Policy Title:	Fundraising Policy
Effective Date:	May 3, 2009
Revised Dates:	
Approval Date:	May 3, 2009
Purpose:	To ensure the parish of St. Peter the Apostle Antiochian Orthodox Church of San Dimas abides by the stewardship principles of Holy Scripture and complies with the objectives and intent of our Archdiocese regarding fundraising.

BACKGROUND

While acknowledging that the Bible neither condones nor condemns fundraisers, the Church, including local churches, ought to be supported by the tithes and offerings of God's people (Acts 4:32-35, 1 Cor. 16:1-4, 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15, etc.).

RULES

General Budget

- Our parish raises general funding to support its ongoing, normal operating expenses **solely** through the tithes and offerings of its faithful and friends.
- The Parish Council is charged with establishing and putting into effect the mode of securing tithes and offerings.

Special Fund-Raising Projects

- Our parish undertakes special fund-raising projects for specific purposes as determined by the Parish Council and only with the blessing of the pastor of the parish.
- Fundraising projects must not conflict with the ethical and canonical tradition of Orthodox life and practice.
- Fundraising projects must have a clear focus and vision, and must support some special capital development or mission that is **not** a part of the ordinary (general) budgetary expense of the parish. For example:
 - Capital development projects include endeavors such as purchasing property or the construction of a church related building.
 - Mission projects include endeavors such as an Orthodox outreach or charitable work.
- All parish organizations must gain approval before initiating any fundraising project. This approval must be secured through the procedure explained below.

GUIDELINES

- A cost analysis should be performed in order to assess the time and money to be spent for the fundraiser against its expected payoff.
- A fundraiser must not hinder the church's ongoing ministries and responsibilities.

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PROCEDURE

To obtain approval for a fundraising project:

1. Prepare a fundraising request that includes the following information:
 - **Purpose** (the specific capital development or mission for which the funds are being raised)
 - **Organization** (parish organization making the request and conducting the fundraiser)
 - **Method** (the type and brief description of the fundraiser)
2. Submit the request to the pastor for his blessing. The pastor will screen the canonical appropriateness of the intended project from an Orthodox ecclesiastical authority.
3. After receiving the blessing of the pastor, submit the request to the Parish Council for consideration and approval at its next council meeting. This places the fundraising project in clear view of the whole parish, thus enabling the fullest chance of success and allowing a clear mode of communication about the intent of the project.