

PARISH SOLIDARITY FUND

What is the Parish Solidarity Fund (PSF)?

The PSF was established in 2020 by Archbishop Etienne in response to the severe impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on parish finances. It was funded primarily by the Archbishop's tithe of 10% of the actual contributions (one time gifts and payments toward pledges up to parish goal) to the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. The PSF has also received funds from a portion of contributions made to the COVID Emergency Relief Appeal conducted jointly by the archdiocese, Fulcrum and Catholic Community Services.

The PSF is intended to provide emergency, short-term cash grants to parishes and missions who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of a reduction in ordinary income (contributions) that began after March 1, 2020 and is related to the pandemic and associated restrictions to the public celebration of Mass and normal parish ministries.

Parishes with a large amount of unrestricted cash will be expected to use a reasonable portion of their savings prior to being awarded a grant from the Parish Solidarity Fund.

Who Can Apply For a Grant?

All parishes and missions in the Archdiocese of Seattle pandemic are eligible to apply, particularly those that have been severely impacted financially as a result of the many consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is the Deadline to Apply?

Applications must be received in Parish Financial Services by **January 28, 2022** to be eligible for consideration in the next round of grant awards.

What is the Process to Apply?

It is very easy to apply.

Step 1: Complete a simple, one page application (attached)

Step 2: Assemble the required financial documentation listed on the application

Step 3: Include a letter or email of approval from the Pastor (or equivalent) and Chair of the Finance Council

Step 4: Submit the completed application and documentation to Scott Bader in Parish Financial Services either via email to parishfinancialsvcs@seattlearch.org or by mail to 710 9th Ave., Seattle WA 98104.

Note: Parishes with missions, as well as two or more parishes who have the same pastor will be considered as one combined unit and must provide the financial information requested on the application for all related parishes and/or missions.

How Can Grant Money Be Used?

Grants received from the PSF can be used to support the operations and ministries of the parish or mission named in the grant. Since there is a separate emergency grant fund through the Fulcrum Foundation for Catholic schools, PSF grant money may not be used for any school-related expenses.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

There are three opportunities to apply for grants this fiscal year. Deadlines are:

- September 24, 2021 - complete
- January 28, 2022
- April 29, 2022

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Grant Application

Parish(s)/Mission(s) name(s) and city(s) _____

Grant request amount _____ Date of application _____

Parish Annual Report 2020-2021 is in and complete Yes _____ No _____

Which online giving platform does parish use (e.g. OSV, Vanco, Pushpay, LPI, etc.)? _____

What is the link on your website to the online giving option? _____

By what percentage did the number of parishioners using online giving for ordinary (stewardship) giving increase between (a) Feb 29, 2020 (b) the date of this application _____

On what dates did parish send periodic pledge reminders in 2021? _____ (Please include an example)

Did you conduct the parish giving commitment renewal in fall 2021? How many follow up letters did you send? _____ (Please include examples)

Please explain how the parish has been severely impacted as a result of the pandemic?

Please detail what the grant would pay for (and provide cost amounts for each item):

Please list the communication and outreach efforts the parish conducted to keep parishioners informed, engaged and resourced during the ongoing restrictions on the nature and size of public Masses.

Please attach the following for the parish/mission – do not include financials for school, cemetery, foodbank, etc.:

Four column balance sheet and income statement, with these 4 columns:

1. July through June 30, 2021
2. July through June 30, 2020
3. \$ Change
4. % Change