



# St. Raphael

Education Foundation



FUNDED PROJECT: INSTRUMENTATION TOOLS FOR TECH PROGRAM



FUNDED PROJECT: PIANO LESSONS

## Our Mission

The St. Raphael Education Foundation's primary purpose is to promote, sustain, and enhance Eastern Orthodox Christian education, and the Eastern Orthodox Christians seeking to further their education, who come from within the servicing area of Klickitat County, WA, and the counties of Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam, OR.

## Our Vision

To create a better everyday educational experience for Eastern Orthodox Christians within the servicing area of Klickitat County, WA, and the counties of Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam, OR. This means providing timely financial assistance to afford/enhance Orthodox Christian homeschooling, seminarian studies, and collegiate educational scholarships, as well as providing sustainable financial support for an Orthodox Christian day school in Goldendale, WA.

**Supporting education for all Orthodox Christians in these counties.**



**Please pray for our mission to support the education of Orthodox Christians**

**H**oly St. Raphael of Brooklyn, please pray to the Lord for this Education Foundation, that He may be pleased with it and the work and bless the work, causing it to grow and multiply for His glory and honor. And please intercede for the foundation's board members that He give them the capacity to keep up with the growth with fidelity to His desire and purpose so that they may be good stewards of what He has placed in their stewardship.

Thank you for your prayers, O' holy St. Raphael!





HARVEST FEST LAWN GAMES



CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS



ULTIMATE CAKE WALK

## To our Orthodox Community,

Glory to God for all the babies that He is giving us! We are nearly bursting at the seams! This is such a blessing, and yet the adversary of our souls is always looking for ways to divide us and plant the seeds of doubt and fear about how best to educate these little gifts from God. But God will help us to prove faithful by responding with love for each other, with forbearance, humility, and fidelity to Christ Jesus, our Lord!

As Americans by upbringing, we often feel compelled to tackle a problem, or an injustice, when we see it. For many of us, the secular approach of our nation's public schools and its perceived negative effects on our children's faith has become a real obstacle to nurturing genuine faith. Though this problem is not new, the question remains, how best do we solve it?

Usually, as human beings, when faced with a problem, we look to the examples of our past. American history has shown us that often two sides arose to take on the problem and fix it, but sadly, these two sides often opposed each other even though they were both trying to address the same problem. Think of Martin Luther King Jr. vs. Malcolm X regarding Civil Rights, or Cary Chapman Catt and N.A.W.S.A. vs. Alice Paul and the N.W.P. regarding Women's Suffrage, or even John Muir and Preservation vs. Gifford Pinchot and Conservation regarding the protection of our natural resources. When we didn't see eye to eye as Americans we saw those who were of a different approach as a threat rather than as co-laborers for a cause we mutually believed in. As Orthodox Christians ponder how best to educate our children some have come to believe that only a home-

school approach can save our children, others that a co-op is the right way to proceed, while still others argue for hybrid school or even a normal school but with faith infused in all areas. We are almost encouraged to ask, "Which one should we choose?" as though there is only one option.

Though not speaking of this precise issue, but perhaps in a similar vein, the Holy Apostle Luke recorded in 9:49-50, "...Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side." We must take the same approach in the education of our children as well.

Our children and the integrity of their education is worth fighting for, but as citizens of the Kingdom of God, our Sovereign Lord, has not called us to oppose each other in how we accomplish this task. So, we who serve in the St. Raphael Education Foundation will support Orthodox Christians in our area who wish to home-school, or prefer a co-op, and/or those who want a school and we will do so with love, with forbearance, with humility, and with fidelity to Jesus Christ. Through the prayers of St. Raphael, may God be glorified in our work!



**Yours in Christ,**

**RDR. BASIL STUART, CHAIR**





# Meet the Education Foundation Board Members



MEIKA WOOD, VICE CHAIR



REBEKAH JOHNSON, TREASURER



KRISTEN STUART, SECRETARY



MARK SIGFRINIUS



THEOPHANO REESE



JON FASSET



ARIANNA DUMONT



DAVID JENNINGS



SERAPHIMA SIGFRINIUS,  
ELDER MEMBER



SOPHIA GASCA,  
ELDER MEMBER

## Mark your calendars!

**JOIN US FOR OUR EVENTS IN 2025.**  
**When you come to one of our events you are helping us raise money to fund education for Orthodox Christians. Another great way you can help is by donating items for our events.**

### FEBRUARY 14, 2025 - ICE CREAM SOCIAL & SILENT AUCTION AT THE GOLDENDALE GRANGE HALL

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP:** Your family or your business could: sponsor a silent auction basket, donate items or services, sponsor the ice cream and/or toppings, purchase items from our Amazon Wishlist, and help SPREAD THE WORD! Invite your friends and family to join this fun event.

### LENTEN & ADVENT ALMS GIVING

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP:** Please consider giving to the education foundation when you are planning your alms giving during the fasting season.

### JUNE 2025 - GOLDENDALE COMMUNITY WIDE GARAGE SALES

**WAYS YOU CAN HELP:** While spring cleaning, save your gently used household items and donate them to our garage sale. Drop off at Rebekah Johnson's house is available starting in March 2025. (We appreciate all donations except clothing and used cosmetic products.) **This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year! So please consider donating items or sign up for a shift to help with set up, tear down, and selling.**

# Support Education

## Ways to give

### GIVE A GENERAL DONATION

Give a general donation to grow our funds for immediate grant requests and to save for our endowment fund.

You can do this by mailing a check to:  
St. Raphael Education Foundation  
920 Kenny Ct.  
Goldendale, WA 98620-2349

### BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Consider setting up a monthly pledge Online or with a donation card.

### LEAVE US IN YOUR WILL

You can support the education of Orthodox Christians by leaving us as a percentage in your will as you consider your legacy.

### DONATE ONLINE

Visit the "Donate" page on our website at [straphaeleducationfoundation.org](http://straphaeleducationfoundation.org) and choose to make a donation using Square or PayPal.

You can also donate right to our endowment fund through the Gorge Community Foundation.  
[gorgecf.org/donations/](http://gorgecf.org/donations/)

### COME TO OUR EVENTS

We have several events throughout the year. Please consider participating, volunteering, donating items, or sponsorships for our events.

## Thanks to you all!

As we come to the close of our second year of fundraising, we would like to thank all of you who made donations of money or items for our events, attended one or all of our fundraisers, or helped set up and clean up. You all made it possible for us to fund grants to people in our area to help them meet their educational goals and to start an endowment fund. Our full financial statement for the year is on our website. Here are the highlights for this year:

### FUNDS RAISED

**\$21,420.38**

Almost the same as last year, but without the \$10,000 donation!

### ENDOWMENT FUND

**\$17,000 Invested**

With another \$3,700 in savings that is earmarked for the endowment!

### GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$6,846.70**

**Awarded**



**St. Raphael**  
Education Foundation

## Check out our website!

We fund grants to Orthodox Christians in our service area on a case by case basis. Please see our website for applications, to learn more about our goals, see funded projects, and donate funds. We look forward to helping you reach your educational goals!

### CONTACT US

Please contact us if you have questions about our organization or if you are attending a small parish and interested in starting your own education foundation. Email [edfororthodox@protonmail.com](mailto:edfororthodox@protonmail.com) • Call 509-250-6886