

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH CROWN POINT, INDIANA

January 6, 2021

Dear Parents,

I am sending this letter to parents of children enrolled in Saint Mary's School.

Looking ahead to the 2021-22 academic year, our Saint Mary's Finance Council approved a school budget with operating expenses of \$2,523,413. Funding these operating expenses depends primarily on three sources of revenue:

- Tuition paid by individual families
- Tuition assistance subsidies paid by parishes
- Revenue from Home & School Association fundraisers

The annual tuition cost for Roman Catholic families who meet the fundraising expectations coordinated by our Home & School Association will be \$4,863 – an increase of 1 % – \$48 per child. This is an increase of \$4.80 monthly per child for those who budget over ten months.

A tuition subsidy from the family's parish can reduce tuition cost. Here are the maximum Tuition Assistance Subsidies paid by parishes for those Catholic families who meet the eligibility requirements determined by their parish:

1 child	\$ 702	3 children	\$5,741
2 children	\$2,744	4 children	\$9,035

Will you qualify for a Tuition Assistance Subsidy? The eligibility requirements for your tuition subsidy are determined by your pastor.

Looking to the future, our Saint Mary's Finance Council is committed to a financial plan that

- Provides families with the opportunity for their children to benefit from an education in our parish school.
- Ensures the long-term financial stability of Saint Mary's Church & School.

An ongoing concern is that our school may become cost-prohibitive for some families. In fact, most children from Saint Mary's Church do not attend Saint Mary's School - but this does not diminish our resolve to continue trying to help families provide their children with the opportunity of an education in our parish school. It can be noted last year's subsidy from Saint Mary's Church of \$161,500 helped 142 children from Saint Mary's Church who attended our school.

If your family finds itself experiencing financial difficulties, I encourage your participation in the Tuition Assistance Program sponsored by the Diocese of Gary. The Diocese will soon announce their application protocol – and this will be published in the Wildcat.

I am very grateful for the wisdom of our Parish Finance Council and the leadership displayed by our Principal, our School Advisory Council and the officers in our Home & School Association. Despite the enormous challenges created by the pandemic – these leaders inspire me with confidence that we will succeed in our ongoing effort to insure Saint Mary’s long-term financial stability.

Looking ahead, members of the Saint Mary’s Parish Finance Council and Saint Mary’s School Advisory Council agree that increasing our enrollment is of singular significance. To this end, I urge your support of the marketing efforts being led by Mr. Ruiz.

Finally, I want you to know that one of my joys is serving in a setting where the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council are so supportive of the Catholic School. The harmonious working relationship between the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, School Advisory Council and our Home & School Association is truly a blessing – for our children.

Please know that I am grateful for your support.

In Christ,

Father Pat

Reverend Patrick Kalich
Pastor

Will you qualify for a Tuition Assistance Subsidy from Saint Mary’s Church?

Here are the expectations for active parishioners who belong to Saint Mary’s Church:

- Attend the Sunday liturgy each week.
- Contribute a minimum of fifteen dollars per week to the weekly collection.
- Parents actively engaged in one of these designated ministries:
 - Lector during Sunday liturgies at Saint Mary’s Church.
 - Eucharistic Minister during Sunday liturgies at Saint Mary’s Church.
 - Usher during Sunday liturgies at Saint Mary’s Church.
 - Greeter during Sunday liturgies at Saint Mary’s Church.

OR children (in grades 4 and above) engaged in one of these ministries:

- Altar Server during Sunday liturgy at Saint Mary’s Church.
- Children’s Choir during Sunday liturgy at Saint Mary’s Church.

NOTE: Among the disruptions caused by COVID-19: some of us found it very difficult to meet these expectations – including engagement in these designated ministries - and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The day will come – sooner or later – when we will resume these ministries during the Sunday liturgy – and parents or children (in grades 4 and above) will be expected to be engaged in order to maintain a Tuition Assistance Subsidy.

Do you belong to another parish? Eligibility requirements for your tuition subsidy are determined by your pastor.