

**GRANTS FOR ST. MARY BASILICA STUDENTS
AT CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
(Effective date: November 1, 2015)**

All Catholics have an obligation from the Scriptures and Church teaching to financially contribute to the support of their Church. These contributions help meet the operational costs of the parish - parish programs, staff, utilities, and support for Catholic education. The contribution patterns, Mass attendance and participation in parish activities in St. Mary Basilica parish have been studied by the pastoral council, the finance council, the pastor and staff. The findings have resulted in updated guidelines.

There is no longer a difference between full tuition rate and subsidized tuition rate. St. Mary Basilica parish, however, will provide a grant to the students of St. Mary parishioners who are eligible. The grant is available to families who are registered members of St. Mary parish for at least one year, who attend Mass each weekend, who contribute financially on a regular, identifiable and meaningful way to the parish, and who participate in the life and activities of the parish. The new tuition policy is as follows:

1. Financial contributions from all St. Mary parishioners are necessary to meet the operational costs of the parish and to provide tuition grants at Cathedral School.
2. The maximum grant per child to eligible families is \$600 a year.
3. The actual amount of the grant will be based on the amount contributed by the family to the parish. One third (1/3) of the annual contribution will be used for parish operations. The remaining two thirds (2/3) will be available for the grant – one dollar grant for every one dollar contributed to the parish up to the maximum grant amount.
4. If a family contributes \$900 to the parish, \$300 will be used for the parish operations, and \$600 will be available for a grant to the family. If a family contributes \$300 to the parish, \$100 will be used for parish operations and \$200 will be available for grants to the family.
5. Where teacher discounts are applicable, this discount is deducted first, and then two thirds (2/3) of the amount contributed to the parish will be applicable to the grant up to the maximum grant amount.

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6. Grants will be based on the contribution amounts made to the parish during the calendar year before the tuition billing date for the upcoming school year. (Grants for the school year 2016-2017 will be based on the contributions made to St. Mary Basilica during the calendar year 2015.
7. Eligibility for grants will require:
 - A. Being a registered member of St. Mary parish for at least one year.
 - B. Regular weekend Mass attendance by parent(s) and children.
 - C. Financial contributions to the parish that are regular, meaningful and identifiable.
 - D. Participation in the life and programs of the parish by parent(s) and children:
 - Parent(s) to be participants in one of the parish programs (any parish committee or commission, pastoral council, parish tri-centennial, etc.) and in one liturgical role.
 - Children/adolescents to participate in (Liturgy of Word for Children, St. Mary Kids, VBS, KCYO, JCYO or CYO), and in Liturgical roles (Mass server, lector, usher, greeter, gift bearer, etc.)
8. Grants apply to children in grades K-6 and in grades 7-12, but not to Pre-Kindergarten children.



The revised policy is intended to encourage active participation in the parish by all families and individuals. Parents are the “primary teachers of their children in the ways of faith.”

St. Mary Parish has completed the construction/equipping of the Family Life Center (dedicated in September 2012) as a way of assisting families and individuals of every age in their faith journey. The parish has also hired a full time youth director since September 1, 2015.

Parents or families who experience difficulty in fulfilling the financial contribution criteria will be invited to meet with members of the parish pastoral or finance councils.