PARISHIONER TUITION DISCOUNT POLICY

Saint Joseph CATHOLIC CHURCH

2026 - 2027 SCHOOL YEAR

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share with others. In this way, they will store up for themselves a treasure which will be a solid foundation for the future. And then they will be able to win the life which is true life." 1 Timothy 6: 18-19

As a participating member of Saint Joseph Parish, each Parishioner is expected to contribute a combination of time, talent, and treasure in support of our mission. The ability of Parishioners to support the Parish varies greatly. We ask for "equal sacrifice, rather than equal giving".

As a matter of Christian stewardship establishment of each Parishioner's regular pattern of giving is vital. This regular pattern of giving will be the primary factor considered in determining eligibility for Parishioner privileges, such as school tuition rates for Saint Joseph School and Cardinal Newman School. In the absence of this regular pattern of giving, the Pastor may consider other factors on a confidential and individual basis.

Parishioner Tuition Rate is an option and a privilege granted to those families that fulfill all requirements on a regular and consistent basis. The criteria for eligibility for the parishioner tuition rate for St. Joseph Parish are evaluated before each semester, and any family not fulfilling all requirements will be assigned the non-parishioner rate.

The requirements to meet Parishioner Tuition Discount are as follows:

1. Be registered in the parish a minimum of six months. If transferring from another Catholic parish, written confirmation from one's previous parish needs to be supplied to the pastor of our parish that the family was active, known and in

good standing. *Envelope Number will be required on form to track contributions or participation in our Online Giving program.

2. When in town, be faithful to Mass every weekend and on Holy Days of Obligation. (At least 75% attendance) Attendance is recorded by use of envelopes and online giving.

3. Be financially supportive of the parish. Saint Joseph Parish subsidizes each student at Saint Joseph School an average of $500.00 per student. The Parish subsidizes an average of $300.00 for each high school student at Cardinal Newman and $200.00 for each middle school at Cardinal Newman. The recommended minimum gift is to at least cover these costs, for each child.

4. Be involved in parish activities, ministries, and programs. Supporting one's parish through prayer, action and financial support should come naturally. The pastor reserves the right to suspend or discontinue the parish's endorsement of a family's parishioner status at any time. The monetary support of our schools is an important aspect of Parish finance. When the Office Staff is asked to certify active parishioner status, they first look to the frequency of envelope use, not just the total amount given. As many parishioners have been told, if you cannot make the expected contribution, let the Pastor know and be sure to drop in an envelope every Sunday even if it just contains a minimal contribution.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is a serious one. This is not merely a matter of Parish policy. Divine law sets forth this expectation in the Third of the Ten Commandments, "Remember, thou, keep holy the Sabbath." Exercising the "Power of the Keys" given to the Church by Christ, Himself, Cannon Law states: On Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass; they are also to abstain from those labors and business concerns which impede the worship to be rendered to God, the joy which is proper to the Lord's Day, or the proper relaxation of mind and body. (Canon 1247) This is the ordinary expectation of Catholics. Obviously, extraordinary circumstances such as sickness, travel, or bad weather excuse the faithful from this obligation. The elderly or disabled are not bound to Sunday Mass attendance. While an individual disregard of this precept would not constitute grave matter (and thus serious sin), habitual disregard for God's Law

and the Law of the Church would. Hopefully, we live beyond the minimal dictates of the Law. It simply follows that if Sunday Mass attendance is an important Catholic value, then parents who want a Catholic education for their children will see that they attend Mass faithfully on Sunday; otherwise, perhaps people are not so interested in Catholic education as they are in subsidized private education.

Parents should also note that the expectations regarding Mass attendance do not apply simply to the Catholic parent or parents, but to the students as well. All Catholic students enjoying the benefits of parishioner tuition rates are expected to attend Mass faithfully.

St. Joseph Church is eager to subsidize a Catholic education for your children, provided you as the parents are truly committed to a Catholic upbringing. The most critical aspect of this education is Mass attendance on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Evaluation of parishioner status will take place twice a year, in December and in May. If at any time you believe your circumstances prevent you from meeting the definition of parishioner, please contact Adrienne Carroll at adrienne@stjosephcolumbia.org. If your extenuating circumstances are on record, they can be included in the review.