

December 15, 2009

Dear Parents,

It is with great joy that we share with you the tuition schedule for the 2010-2011 school year approved by Monsignor Amey. We would also like to thank the members of the School Advisory Board, Mary Keefe (our Vice-Principal), the Parish Finance Council and Kristy Mitchell Sullivan (Parish Finance Council liaison to the School) for their recommendations and budgeting work in creating this schedule.

Given the financial and economic climate, every effort was made to ensure that our tuition remains affordable. With this consideration, great care was taken to continue to ensure the Catholic identity and academic rigor to which we have all become accustomed. We, in consultation with the executive team of the school advisory board, have made the decision to return part time instructional aides to grades 3 and 4 and also to hire an additional full time resource/reading teacher. These positions will return us to the staffing that we had in the past.

There are several changes in the tuition scale presentation so I ask that you read this letter carefully.

The Archdiocese of Washington has asked all parish schools to publish the per-pupil rate of tuition for all students. The per-pupil rate of tuition reflects the full cost to educate a student at St. Mary's without consideration of a parish subsidy. The projected 2010-2011 per-pupil rate for St. Mary's is \$7,600. The difference between this projected cost and the tuition rate for Catholics reflects a financial subsidy from the parish in an effort to maintain the affordability of Catholic education. The \$7,600 per pupil rate applies to students of non-Catholic families, and children of non-participating Catholic families.

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The Archdiocese encourages Catholic families who are able to cover the per pupil rate to donate the differential of \$2,459 to the parish tuition assistance fund (based on one child enrolled). Such a donation is completely voluntary and may be a tax deductible contribution (donors should consult their own financial and tax advisors). We invite you to fully consider making this donation to St. Mary's in order to ensure the viability of our parish school and to maintain affordable tuition rates. We are deeply grateful for any help you may be able to give to assist families who are in financial need.

The Catholic rate is now the tuition rate for ALL CATHOLICS from any parish. Parishioners from parishes other than St. Mary's will need to present a letter, signed by their pastor, stating that they are members in good standing of their parish, contributing regularly to their parish. St. Mary's Parish members will receive this Catholic rate if they are members in good standing, volunteering and contributing to the parish using the envelope system on a regular basis.

Whether you are able to pay the per-pupil rate or the Catholic rate, again I ask that you consider making a suggested donation to the Tuition Assistance Fund in the amount equal to the difference between the actual per student cost and the tuition rate. We are deeply grateful for any help you may be able to give to assist families who are in financial need.

For families paying the Catholic rate, tuition has been raised 5% for the 2010-2011 school year. This increase for Catholic rate families is approximately \$24 per month for one child, \$43 per month for two children and \$55 per month for three or more children. The Catholic rate summary below also shows the amount that the parish pays to subsidize the education of the students. As you can see, the subsidy amount is significant. This is why contributing to the support of the church on a regular basis using the envelope system is so very important.

Another change for 2010-2011 is that you will now be able to spread the Debt Reduction payment over the 10 month cycle if you use the SMART payment plan. If you do not use SMART, payments for Tuition the Debt Reduction will be due on July 1, 2010. If you use the SMART program, the first payment (1/10th of the total of debt reduction and tuition) will be drawn in July.

The book bill will remain the same as it has been for several years, \$350 (\$450 Grade 8) per child. This payment is due on August 1, 2010.

The re-registration fee will remain the same as it has for several years, \$245. Re-registration will be due by January 31, 2010. This re-registration fee covers family fees of Home/School Dues \$25, Cultural Arts \$25, Playground Supervision Fee \$180, and Crisis Supplies \$15.

The following schedule summarizes the CATHOLIC FAMILY RATE (used if unable to pay the PER-PUPIL rate):

	<u>Family Payment</u>	<u>Parish Financial Subsidy</u>
One Child	\$ 5,141	\$ 2,459
Two Children	\$ 8,954	\$ 6,246
Three or More Children	\$ 11,567	\$ 11,233 (for three children)
plus \$360 for Debt Reduction per family		
plus \$245 re-registration per family		
plus \$350 (\$450 Grade 8) per child for Book Bill		

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Should you have any questions at all regarding this information, please call Sister Carol right away (301-762-4179 X 3004).

It is the deepest of privileges to partner with you in the education of your children. Thank you for this honor.

Blessings of this Advent Season to each of you,

Reverend Monsignor Robert G. Amey
Pastor

Sister Carol Rigali, OSF
Principal

ENCLOSURES: Re- registration documents