

ACTIVE PARISHIONER TUITION RATE GUIDELINES

The Active Parishioner Tuition Credit 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 active parishioner tuition rate for St. Raphael Catholic Church will be evaluated on April 28, 2020 and any family fulfilling all requirements will be assigned a \$300 credit for each student. The requirements to meet Active Parishioner Tuition Credit are as follows:

1. Be registered in the Church of St. Raphael.
2. Be faithful to Mass on the Lord's Day (Sunday or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation. To be considered an active parishioner, a family must attend Mass at least 25 times between August 14, 2019 and April 28, 2020 at St. Raphael Catholic Church. Attendance is recorded by use of contribution envelopes.
3. Support the work of the parish through traceable, unrestricted financial contributions (e.g., envelope offerings or electronic fund transfers).

The monetary support of our school is an important aspect of parish finance. However, the use of envelopes is not primarily about money; the envelopes also provide a record of Mass attendance.

The obligation to attend Mass on Saturday evening or 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, Canon 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.

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 active parishioner tuition rates are expected to attend Mass faithfully.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Michael Rudolph, Pastor
Church of Saint Raphael