

## St. Mary School Active Parishioner (AP) Scholarship

The AP Scholarship is a financial award for school tuition for families who are deeply vested through participation in the parish community of St. Mary.

### Active Parishioner Requirements: The Three Pillars of Participation

To qualify for the Active Parishioner tuition rate, families commit to these three core areas for at least **6 months** prior to the application deadline.

- **Identity:** Be a **registered member** of an Eastside Catholic Family parish
- **Worship:** Fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation at any Eastside Family church (includes Saturday Vigil). Catholics are obliged to attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- **Stewardship:** Maintain a **consistent financial commitment** to the parish Sunday Giving.

### Why Become an Active Parishioner?

St. Mary School is a ministry of St. Mary Parish and the Family of Eastside Catholics. The school is unified with the church in every aspect - - - theologically, spiritually and communally. Being an Active Parishioner means your family is "All In" on the faith and educational formation of your child.

### Important Dates & Deadlines

- **Application Window:** Opens each year in **February** for the following school year.
- **Award Notification:** Families will be notified of their scholarship status in **May**.
- **Mid-Year Review:** Families NOT qualified may request a status review in **January** for second-semester tuition adjustments based on criteria met through December.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**I volunteer a lot. Why does my family need to go to weekly mass?** Beyond being a formal obligation of the Catholic Faith, the Mass is our opportunity to worship communally and experience the true presence of Christ. It is a time of spiritual nourishment, renewal and respite. The weekly Mass is the MOST important aspect of participating in your Catholic parish.

**How is my participation tracked?** Attendance and giving are recorded using **offertory envelopes** dropped into the collection basket. This applies even if you give online (simply drop the empty envelope).

**What is the required contribution amount?** The goal is consistency, not a specific dollar amount. However, for the fiscal health of both school and church, we strive for the collective Sunday giving of our school families to equal or exceed the total cost of the scholarships provided.

**What if we are new to the parish?** If you have moved recently and have been registered for less than 6 months at the time of the spring application, you may provide an **Affidavit of Participation** from your previous pastor to qualify immediately. The school office can provide the form.

**What if I forget my envelope?** Generic envelopes are available in the church vestibule. Simply write your **name and address** on the envelope or any piece of paper and place it in the basket.

**Pro-Tip:** Keep your envelopes in your car console! The date on the envelope does not matter; it will be recorded on the day it is used.

### **Contact Information**

Questions about your status? Please contact the parish office or email [tuition@stmaryhp.org](mailto:tuition@stmaryhp.org).

We are here to help ensure our records accurately reflect your family's involvement.

*"The school exists in partnership with the parish; active participation in worship and giving reflects that shared mission."*