

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

SUBSIDY CARD POLICY

Effective March 2004

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FAMILIES APPLYING FOR SUBSIDIZED LOWER TUITION FOR ATTENDANCE AT ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL OR FOR A SUBSIDY TO ATTEND OTHER DIOCESAN SCHOOLS.

1. All families who desire financial support for their children attending Saint Mary's School or other diocesan school must present a "Subsidy Card" to the Church Office from the school their children will be attending. Please pay attention to the school's deadline for returning the cards.
2. Immaculate Conception Church operates its own grade school, and therefore, Saint Mary's School should be the first choice for parishioners; however, Immaculate Conception Parish will subsidize parishioners who, with just cause, must send their children to another diocesan school.
3. Families requesting the lower, subsidized tuition must be practicing Catholics who, *with their children*, attend Mass regularly in the parish and practice good stewardship by giving of their time, talent and treasure. They must have been registered members of the parish for twelve calendar months before requesting parish support. Families must use the envelope system.

Families transferring from out of town must present a letter from their prior pastor stating that they have been registered and active members in their parish.

4. High school students requesting a subsidy to a diocesan high school are *not exempt* from the requirement to attend Mass in the parish. High school students not attending Mass regularly in the parish will not be eligible for a Parish Subsidy. They are encouraged to be active in the parish Life Teen Mass, and encouraged as well to volunteer for service to the parish through the CYO and other organizations as time permits.

5. Part of being a “good steward” means that family should be supporting members of the parish. To meet the criterion of being “supporting members,” families must satisfy the following:
 - a. Families requesting a subsidy must participate in the annual Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal conducted each October and November. Families do not have to pledge an amount to the Diocese, but Families requesting a subsidy must participate in the annual Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal conducted each October and November. Families do not have to pledge an amount to the Diocese, but they **must** pledge to the parish.
 - b. At the end of the calendar year, families should have met at least 85% of their pledge amount.
 - i. Families that experience financial difficulties during the year should inform the pastor that they will have difficulty meeting their pledge and may adjust the pledge according to their circumstance.
 - ii. Families that do not meet 85% of their pledge may meet with the Subsidy Review Committee of the Parish Finance Board to explain their situation and request an exemption from the policy. (Parents should expect the pastor to abide by the recommendation of this committee.)
6. Catholic families that attend Saint Mary’s School but do not obtain or are not eligible for a Subsidy Card are not eligible for “Supported Tuition” and must pay the higher “Unsupported Tuition” which is a “per student tuition” and does not offer discounts for multiple children enrolled in the school.
7. Families that feel that they need to be considered for an exemption from the Subsidy Card Policy may meet with the Subsidy Review Committee to request an exemption.
8. Parish families requesting financial assistance for Saint Mary’s School tuition must be eligible for a “Subsidy Card.”