

Parish of St. Anthony Catholic Community

Tuition Assistance Policy for Catholic School Students

Purpose and Commitment

The Parish of St. Anthony Catholic Community of Bartonville does not operate an elementary or secondary parish school. Nevertheless, St. Anthony Parish is deeply committed to supporting Catholic education for the children of our parish families. In collaboration with the Parish Finance Committee, the parish intends to provide tuition assistance to eligible parishioners whose children attend Catholic schools within the Diocese of Peoria.

Each year, the parish seeks to allocate funds for tuition assistance equal to **ten percent (10%) of Sunday and Holy Day collections from the previous fiscal year**. A portion of this is allocated to Peoria Notre Dame assessment; the remainder is available for tuition assistance. St Anthony will offer a maximum of 1/2 the cost of a given child's tuition.

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for tuition assistance from St. Anthony Parish, families must meet the following criteria:

1. **Parish Membership**
The student's family must be registered, active members of St. Anthony Parish and members in good standing. This includes regular participation in Sunday Mass and, when possible, involvement in parish ministries, activities, or service.
2. **Catholic School Enrollment**
Tuition assistance is available only for students who plan to attend **Catholic schools within the Diocese of Peoria**.
3. **Annual Application Requirement**
Tuition assistance is awarded for **one academic year only**. Families seeking continued assistance must reapply in full each year.

Application Process

Families requesting tuition assistance must complete all of the following steps:

- **FACTS Financial Aid Application**
Completion of the FACTS application, including submission of all required supporting documentation, is mandatory.
- **Spalding Scholarship Application**
Families must apply for the Spalding Scholarship (or its diocesan equivalent) as part of the overall financial aid process.
- **Pastoral Interview (if requested)**
Parents or guardians may be asked to participate in a personal interview with the Pastor of St. Anthony Parish as part of the discernment process.

Considerations for Tuition Assistance Awards

St. Anthony Parish recognizes that Catholic schools within the Diocese typically operate with a tuition structure that offers reduced rates for parish members and higher rates for non-parish families. The parish's tuition assistance program is intended to help offset this in order to make Catholic education more accessible for St. Anthony families.

In determining the distribution of tuition assistance, the following factors may be considered:

- Demonstrated **financial need**
- Recommendations from the **school principal** and **pastor**
- Input from other parish leaders, as appropriate

Families receiving assistance are generally expected to contribute toward tuition to the extent that they are able.

Additional Tuition Assistance Resources

Many Catholic schools and diocesan organizations offer additional forms of tuition assistance, including need-based aid, academic scholarships, and multi-child discounts. Families are strongly encouraged to schedule an appointment with the principal of the school they wish their child to attend to discuss available options and specific school policies.

Parish Vision for Catholic Education

St. Anthony Parish affirms that Catholic education plays a vital role in the formation of young people. Catholic schools uniquely integrate academic excellence with the teachings of Jesus Christ, Sacred Scripture, and the living tradition of the Catholic Church. These values are woven throughout the curriculum and daily life of the school community.

Our parish encourages parents to consider Catholic schools as their first choice for their children's education. In partnership with the Diocese of Peoria, St. Anthony Parish seeks each year to reduce the financial burden of Catholic education and to support families who desire a faith-filled, safe, values-based, and academically rigorous learning environment for their children.

Statement of Intent

The St. Anthony Parish Tuition Assistance Program exists to help families keep their children enrolled in Catholic schools and to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent access to a Catholic education. Rooted in our parish's mission and commitment to the Gospel, this program reflects our shared responsibility to form the next generation in faith, knowledge, and service.

*This policy is subject to annual review and revision by the Pastor and Parish Finance Committee.
May 21, 2026*