



January 12, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year! Peace and blessings to all of you and your family!

The time has come for us to begin the budgeting process for another year of Catholic education for our young disciples. Our parish remains one of only two parishes in Arlington that provides Catholic elementary education. We also financially support Nolan Catholic High School. Our parish will continue to support these schools through certification to receive the discounted rate of tuition for both schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

Having reviewed our church policy regarding certification of parishioner status, I have decided to leave the requirements the same as they have been for the most recent school year.

In order to qualify for Parishioner Certification and receive the discounted tuition rate offered by both schools, you must meet the following minimum requirements:

- **Registered:** Your family must be formally enrolled in *this* parish at the time of registration.
- **Active:** You should faithfully attend Mass each Sunday at Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Church.
- **Contributing:** You support the Parish financially through regular, consistent, sacrificial giving.

**Formal enrollment** is achieved through completion of the parish registration form. This can be done by paper enrollment, available in the Parish Office; through one of our hospitality ministers after Mass; or on-line on our website at [www.smgparish.org](http://www.smgparish.org).

**Faithful attendance** means coming to Sunday Mass at Saint Maria Goretti at least 42 times per year. To measure this, we rely on the use of envelopes and *Faith Direct* attendance cards being placed in the Sunday offertory baskets. If you are currently utilizing *Faith Direct* and do not have attendance cards, you **will need** them going forward. Please note that we track only Sunday attendance for tuition rate purposes and not Holy Days and weekday Masses.

To determine eligibility **for the 2017-2018 school year, the measurement period is April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.** If you elect to use envelopes and you forget yours, please use one of the white pew envelopes to track attendance. If you use *Faith Direct*, please use the white offertory cards that are provided. This is very important!

**Support through regular, consistent giving** means your family participating in sacrificial giving according to your means. Regular and generous giving on your part makes it possible for the parish to do more for the school and the parish as a whole. Your consistent financial support is a manifestation of your honoring Church teaching, which stresses “. . . *supporting the Church parish and all it strives to do to spread the Catholic faith.*”

If you have any questions regarding this policy or these outlined requirements, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office.

Please know that your family is always in my prayers.

God bless,

Fr. Luke Robertson, TOR  
Pastor