



SAINT MARK Catholic Church

Office of the Pastor

Dear Saint Mark Catholic Church Families,

It is a privilege to partner with you in passing on and celebrating our Catholic faith with your family. We value the Catholic formation that your children receive in their respective schools and are grateful for the commitment you put forth so that your children may attend Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS). MACS offers a significant financial benefit to those families who are participating in the life of their parish. To receive this financial benefit from MACS your family must be “participating” at your respective parish. To qualify as participating at Saint Mark Catholic Church, the following three requirements must be met:

- **Parish Registration:** Families must be **registered parishioners for at least 6 months prior to submitting a voucher to the parish office.** If you have transferred from another parish, you will need to provide a letter from your former parish identifying you as a participating member. If a letter is not provided, there will be a six (6) month waiting period.
- **Mass Participation:** As a member of our church family, we must be involved in parish worship by attending weekly Mass on Sat/Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Attending Mass is a moral tenet of our faith and we expect that you will commit your time on weekends and Holy Days of Obligation by attending with your family. **Attendance is measured by using offertory envelopes at Mass.** Donations of cash and/or checks can be placed in these envelopes. If you use electronic funds transfer (EFT), we ask that you please drop your weekly envelope in the collection basket marked “I’ve Given Online” so that it can be recorded by our Finance Department. You also should mark MACS Family on the back of the envelope. While this is not a perfect method, it is the one that most churches in the Diocese depend on to determine Mass participation.
- **Parish Participation:** We are called to live the Gospel within our everyday lives. Our response to this call is stewardship. A genuine conversion to stewardship means acknowledging that everything we have comes to us from God as a gift to be cared for responsibly and shared generously with others. **We give gratitude to God by sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure with one another.** Participation in stewardship efforts is expected as we work to pass on and celebrate the faith with our children. **We expect each family to be involved in at least one aspect of parish ministry or outreach.** We ask that you commit to something, whether it be supporting a collection drive, serving at the Liturgy, attending a meal packaging event or participating in the many other opportunities for service that the parish provides or sponsors. It is up to you to view our website, bulletin and e-newsletter to get involved.

During the 2024-2025 school year, Saint Mark Catholic Church was assessed \$701,064 from our offertory collection in support of Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) students. This assessment equates to approximately \$990 per student. **We expect all MACS families to contribute their financial resources in an intentional, consistent and sacrificial manner so that we may continue to financially support the assessment.** The benefit that MACS provides your family for being a Participating Catholic at Saint Mark Catholic Church is shown below.

Tuition 2025-2026	Elementary (TK-5)	Middle (6-8)	High School (9-12)
Non-Participating	\$14,561	\$15,705	\$20,563
Participating Catholic	\$9,042	\$10,145	\$14,353

We ask that you fill out the stewardship commitment form on our website at www.stmarknc.org/mecklenburg-area-catholic-schools. Click on the box titled **Online Commitment Form**.

We are happy to support you by validating the tuition reduction for your family and hope that you will continue to actively participate at both the parish and the schools. Neither one could operate without the commitment of dedicated volunteers and financial support that you give to our MACS and parish community.

If you have any questions about our Participating Catholic requirements, feel free to contact Sue Bruce at sue.bruce@stmarknc.org or 704-948-0231 ext. 123.

Please sign below that you have received this letter and fully understand the requirements above that qualify you as a participating Catholic deserving of the MACS subsidy for the 2025-2026 school year. **This letter should be printed and dropped at the Saint Mark Catholic Church office.**

Full Family Name

Signature

Envelope #

We appreciate your effort to send your children to our Catholic schools and are happy to support you, please know that you are in our prayers. Should you need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Father John Putnam
Pastor