

February 2, 2022

This week the Church celebrates “Catholic Schools’ Week” and today St. Ambrose School honors the parents and guardians of our students. Unfortunately, the weather is preventing us from being together today.

I take this opportunity to thank you for choosing St. Ambrose School and to remind you that we are, first of all, Catholic. We are not a “private” school.

Everything we do and teach is rooted in the Catholic faith and tradition.

As a Catholic School, we expect our Catholic families to participate in Sunday Mass each week. When I served in Springfield, Illinois, there was a bumper sticker that read “Catholic School begins with Sunday Mass.”

The **Family School Agreement** lays out the expectations the Church (and in particular, our Diocese) has for families who choose Catholic education for their children.

St. Ambrose Parish takes this agreement seriously. Sunday Mass is not optional. Prior to the pandemic, attendance at St. Ambrose by school families was improving. The pandemic has reversed that progress.

It has been heartwarming to see some families returning to Mass in recent weeks. I hope and pray this practice continues.

Registration for the 2022-23 academic year will begin in about a month. I remind our Catholic families that to receive “active” parish rate tuition, Sunday Mass must be or become a priority.

If your Sunday Mass attendance has been sporadic or lacking completely since the Bishop lifted the dispensation due to the pandemic in April of 2021, tuition for 2022-23 will be the “inactive” parishioner rate. This is part of parish policy and is included in the Family School Agreement.

If you have any questions about your current status, you may contact Michelle Pulaski. We do record Mass attendance through the use of the Sunday envelope (with or without a donation) and the children’s envelopes. Again, this has been part of the parish policy for several years now.

If your current status is considered “inactive”, there is a remedy. Begin attending Sunday Mass at St. Ambrose the clear majority of the time. Bring your child(ren) with you.

For those who mail in a financial contribution or donate online, the parish is most grateful. However, attendance at Mass is still the determining factor regarding tuition rates.

I have stressed since becoming your Pastor nearly five years ago, that my priority is the spiritual life of the community. This is not about money. This is about the gift of faith and nurturing that faith through the Sacraments, primarily the Eucharist.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and Happy Catholic Schools Week!