## St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Religious Education



#### **Faith Formation Tuition and Fees FAQ**

### What's new for tuition and fees this year?

- There is no longer a fundraising fee per family of \$100. Families can still earn scrip rebates and participate in fundraisers to earn credits toward tuition costs for next year.
- Registration fees and tuition needs to be paid in full prior to the start of the class.
- Scrip rebates and fundraising credits earned during the year are applied to next year's tuition.

## How do I pay for registration and tuition?

You can pay by check or cash in person, or you can pay online by going to <a href="https://stmarygreenville.org/faith-formation">https://stmarygreenville.org/faith-formation</a> and clicking the picture that says "Pay Online." You can use credit card, debit card, or checking/savings accounts for online payments. This will take you to our 3<sup>rd</sup> party online payment system. Please enter the number of children you are registering. In the tuition section, select the number of classes you are taking of each type. Sacrament fees can also be paid online.

## Why is there a registration fee? Why isn't that just part of tuition?

Registration fees are a non-refundable fee that helps cover the costs of, well, registering, and getting the kids set up. If your student leaves the faith formation program during the year, you may receive a pro-rated refund of the tuition, but you are not given a refund of registration fees.

What if I have a scrip rebate or fundraising overage from last year that I want to use to pay my tuition? No problem! We can tell you how much your tuition cost is after the fundraising overage from last year is applied to your balance. Call or visit the office to find out the amount. If you would like to pay in person, simply give cash or check to the office for that amount. If you would rather pay online, there is a spot under the tuition section you can enter the amount you were told to pay. You do not have to enter quantities in the other fields.

# I paid online for registration and tuition for my five kids and it looks like it didn't max out the registration and tuition at \$75 and \$375. Can I get a refund of the difference?

Of course! We're sorry about that! The online system cannot accommodate a maximum, so although three or more children is a max of \$75 and \$375 for tuition and registration, the system can't do it. Please let us know if this happened to you and we will send you a refund check for the difference.

# I used to pay for my tuition at the end of the year, after scrip rebates were applied. Why can't I do that anymore?

We're sorry that this is not available as an option anymore. St. Mary School applies scrip rebates to next year's tuition, and tuition and fees are required to be paid up front unless a payment plan is in place. Therefore, we made the change to keep it consistent throughout the Parish and School. Scrip rebates are still available and may be applied to the next faith formation year.

#### What if I can't afford to pay all of my tuition before classes start?

No problem! Just call the office to discuss. If you are unable to make the payment in full, in some circumstances we can offer a tuition payment plan, where monthly payments will be automatically withdrawn from your checking account. We also offer tuition assistance.

#### When are sacrament fees due?

Please pay the fees prior to receiving the sacrament. There are many things we need to order and plan, and this fee helps us to cover the expense of those items.

N2385 MUNICIPAL DRIVE GREENVILLE, WISCONSIN 54942
PHONE (920)757-6555 FAX (920) 757-6560
WEBSITE: <u>www.stmarygreenville.org</u> EMAIL: <u>FAITHFORMATION@STMARYGREENVILLE.ORG</u>

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## What is this "scrip" you are talking about?

Scrip is an easy way to earn credits toward your tuition cost. We have many families who pay little to nothing of their faith formation tuition because they have earned enough rebates through scrip or other fundraising to pay for it! Scrip is a fancy word for a gift card, but it is special because the vendor gives St. Mary a discount. If you need groceries or gas, instead of using your credit card or cash/check, you could buy a gift card from St. Mary – you pay full price for the gift card, but St. Mary will share the discount with you in the form of a rebate, or credit, to your account. In the 21/22 fiscal year, St. Mary will be increasing the amount we share with the family to 60%. That means for every \$5 discount, the family receives \$3 for their tuition.

#### How can I earn a lot of rebates?

Ask your family to start buying scrip gift cards from St. Mary, and let us know so we can connect them to your account. There are so many vendors that participate in this program that you and your family are sure to find ones you can use. They offer physical cards and e-gift cards, which can either be printed on paper, or they can be shown on the phone and scanned easily at the checkout.

### When will the scrip rebates I earned be applied to my account?

Scrip rebates that are earned between June 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> will be applied to your account and used toward next year's tuition cost.

#### What can scrip rebates or fundraising credits be used for?

Scrip rebates and fundraising credits can only be used for tuition costs. Scrip and fundraising credits cannot be used for registration fees and sacrament fees.

## Why don't you have a fundraising fee anymore?

The fundraising fee was confusing to a lot of folks, including us! We thought it would be simpler for everyone if we eliminated the extra fee.

What if I'm not returning to the faith formation program next year? What happens to my rebates?

If you are not returning to the program next year, your rebates will be automatically donated to the parish, or they can be donated to another family (or families) at the school or faith formation to help them with their tuition cost. The parish has forms you can fill out to designate your rebate toward another family.

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