SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
Roman Catholic Church

Catholic Parishioner Verification Form
2023/2024 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for choosing a Catholic school. There are many sacrifices involved in making the choice to embrace Catholic education. Many Catholic schools discount tuition for parishioners of parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington. Some schools receive significant financial support from our sponsoring parishes and the Archdiocese of Washington as a whole. Active and vibrant parishes make it possible for these groups to support Catholic schools, so it is possible to provide grants to families who actively participate in parish life. Therefore, because the parishioner grant is based on the assumption that families who receive the discount are supporting the school through their parishes, we require families to verify with their pastor that they are active and participating parishioners. Families that are not active and participating members of paradise in the Archdiocese of Washington are expected to pay a tuition rate that is closer to the actual cost of educating their children. If you have extenuating circumstances that you would like to discuss, please contact the pastor.

Parish: St. Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring, MD

Name(s) of parishioner parent(s)_____

Name(s) of child/children_____

Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

Please indicate your level of participation in the life of the parish.

___YES ___NO I (we) have been registered in the parish for at least 6 months.

___YES ___NO I (we) attend Sunday Mass in my parish more than 30 times per year.

___YES ___NO I (we) contribute financially to the parish at a level proportional to my (our) ability.

___YES ___NO I (we) contribute my (our) time and talent to the life of the parish.

My (our) offertory envelope number is:_____ or are you enrolled in Faith Direct? Y/N

Signature of Pastor_____ Date_____

Pastor's Name_____ {PARISH SEAL}

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Guidance for Verifying Active and Participating Parishioners

According to Archdiocesan policy it is the responsibility of the pastor of each parish to determine if an individual or family is considered "active and participating" in the life of his parish church. The sponsoring pastors of Saint Francis International School use the following guidance to help make that determination:

Registration

Registration at the parish office demonstrates commitment to the life and ministry of the Catholic Church. One must be officially registered and show evidence of being involved in the life of the parish (usually through the use of the envelope system) for at least 6 months as a parishioner, as recorded in the parish database. If recently registered as a parishioner (less than 6 months), a statement from the former parish of "active and participating" status at the parish will be accepted to qualify for tuition discount until regular parishioner status at the current parish can be established. The registration requirement typically applies to the custodial parent/guardian of child and assumes the child participates in the life of the parish with that parent.

Regular Attendance

The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is a responsibility of all Catholics that allows the members of the Church to build their relationship with Christ and His community of disciples (c.f. CCC 2181). Parents of Catholic students should be particularly aware of this teaching of the Church, as they have solemnly promised God to raise their children accordingly to the law of Christ and His Church at their child's baptism.

The easiest way to demonstrate one's attendance at Sunday Mass is by participating in the parish envelope system.

For the sponsoring parishes of SFIS the use of at least two envelopes per month in the Sunday collection, even if those envelopes contain a minimal financial contribution, will be considered adequate evidence of regular attendance. Those families signed up on monthly auto withdraw for their tithing will need to place an empty contribution envelope in the collection at least twice a month. Envelopes dropped off or mailed to the parish office are accounted for but do not fulfill the requirements of regularly attending Mass.

Support of the Parish Life

The reason a grant is offered to an "active and participating parishioner" is because they are already supporting the parish by way of their time, talent, and treasure. The level of financial support will vary from family to family depending on the family's income and situation.