



# Blessed Sacrament Church

2409 Dixie Highway  
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017-2993

859-331-4302 • [www.bscky.org](http://www.bscky.org)

March 4, 2021

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Amidst all of the changes in our lives this past year, one involved the parish receiving a new pastor. I arrived here on June 13<sup>th</sup> and have been getting to know the people of the parish ever since, albeit at a slower pace than I would have preferred. My name is Father Damian Hils, and I have been ordained for twenty-five years. It is such a tremendous blessing to be here!

With fondness, I can claim Blessed Sacrament School as my *alma mater*, being a member of the class of 1977. Every stone of our campus has a memory for me, and they are all happy ones. My prayer is that all of our students will someday be able to echo similar sentiments.

Since arriving, our principal, Dan Steffen, and our business manager, Rick Schwab, informed me of the tuition rates and how they can vary. It seems we were using a three tier system while all of the other parish schools nearby are operating with only two. We therefore decided, along with all of the members of the Finance Council of the parish, to adopt this simpler scale.

The enclosed letter does a good job of explaining how all of this will work for the upcoming school year. Obviously, if you have any questions, feel free to call me.

Lastly, I sincerely want to thank you for sticking with our great school during this tumultuous year. Your patience and cooperation are remarkable as we navigated a sometimes disruptive schedule. Let's all pray together that the 2021-2022 school year will be as normal as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Damian J. Hils". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rev. Damian J Hils

Pastor

## Blessed Sacrament Parish

### School Tuition & Parish Participation

We want to thank you for being a part of our Parish and school community. As a Catholic school, worship and participation within the associated Parish outside of just the school are essential to the good of the whole community. After evaluating the procedures of our fellow Diocesan parishes, we have decided to move to a two-tier tuition system, where active parishioners receive Parish benefits.

For the 2021 – 2022 school year, we will begin the process transitioning from three tuition rates (in-boundary Parishioner, out-of-boundary Parishioner, and non-Parishioner) to a two-rate system (active Parishioner & inactive/non Parishioner). The Parish has developed a policy to determine who qualifies for the discounted, active parishioner rate.

Since the Parish generously supplements tuition in order to meet the cost of supporting our students, it is expected that those receiving benefits (including a discounted-tuition rate) are active in the Parish. Without the fiscal support of the parish, the school would run at a significant deficit.

To qualify for the discounted, active parishioner tuition rate, a parishioner must: A) register in the Parish, B) worship with the Parish, and C) contribute to the Parish

A crucial element of the transition to a two-tier tuition system is the determination of active and inactive parishioners. This status will be determined using two primary metrics: envelopes in the basket at Mass and/or contributions through Faith Direct. Envelopes may be dropped in the basket at church, mailed to or dropped off at the Parish Office (2409 Dixie Highway), or sent in to school with your student. Active parishioners will be those families who have attended Mass at Blessed Sacrament (and dropped an envelope) or contributed through Faith Direct on equal to or greater than 50% of weekends (Saturday or Sunday) during each counting period. Families new to the Parish may declare their tuition rate for the first six months. After that time, parishioner status will be reviewed. If the current restrictions associated with the pandemic are still in place and you are uncomfortable attending in-person Masses, the expectation is that your family view the livestreamed Blessed Sacrament Mass and send your envelope via one of the methods listed above.

A minimum contribution of \$40/month (\$10/week or \$480/year) per family is recommended. This figure is based on the cost of tuition vs. what it costs to educate a student at Blessed Sacrament School. Contributing at this level will still result in a significantly lower overall cost than the non-parishioner rate. If you have multiple children in the school and receive the multi-child discount, the gap between the actual cost to educate each child and tuition cost per child grows larger. We ask that you keep this in mind when determining contributions.

A family must maintain active status throughout the year to continue to qualify for the discounted tuition rate. Status will be monitored and tuition adjustments will be made as needed for the subsequent period. The Parish will review parishioner status in the summer and halfway through the school year (in December).

If you are unable to meet this policy, please contact our Business Manager, Rick Schwab, at [rschwab@bscky.org](mailto:rschwab@bscky.org) or 859-331-4302 so that a suitable resolution that respects your situation and the Parish policy can be agreed upon. If you contribute to the school or Parish through some other means at a level greater than or equal to the suggestion above, you may also be eligible for active parishioner status. Exceptions and determinations will be made by the pastor, business manager, and principal.

We sincerely value your family as an integral part of our school and Parish community. As we continue to work to grow and energize our faith community, we value the gifts of your time, talent, and treasure. Thank you.



Mr. Rick Schwab  
Business Manager



Mr. Dan Steffen  
Principal

## **Blessed Sacrament Parish**

### **School Tuition & Parish Participation – F.A.Q.**

1. Why are the tuition rates changing?
  - a. The tuition dollar amounts are not changing any more than they have in past years, which is a minor cost of living adjustment of ~2%. Our tuition categories are changing to reflect the philosophy that active members of our Parish should receive benefits for the time, talent, and treasure they put in to enrich our community.
  - b. A large percentage of our families are registered as active parishioners but do not meet the criteria to remain “active.” That fact leads to significant and unsustainable budget deficits.
  - c. After evaluating the procedures of our neighboring parishes, we were the only parish without this type of system.
  
2. What does it mean to be an active parishioner? How will it be tracked?
  - a. To be considered an active parishioner, one must; A) register with the Parish, B) worship with the Parish, and C) contribute to the Parish.
  - b. Active parishioners are those that attend Mass and/or contribute via Faith Direct on equal to or greater than 50% of weekend Masses during each period (January – June, July – December).
  - c. Participation will be tracked via envelopes or contribution via Faith Direct. Envelopes may be dropped in the basket at church, mailed or dropped off at the parish office (2409 Dixie Highway), or sent in to school with your child.
  
3. How was the suggested donation number determined?
  - a. The full tuition rate represents the actual cost of educating a child at Blessed Sacrament.
  - b. The suggested contribution (\$40/month) is a number that we feel is fair/manageable, but also bridges the gap between the cost of educating children at BSS and tuition.
  - c. If you have multiple children at BSS and therefore receive the multi-child discount, the gap between the actual cost of educating each child and the tuition you pay per child grows larger.
  
4. Can you provide additional details about this change?
  - a. Tuition rates for parishioners are lower than what it costs to educate a child. The expectation is that active parishioners contribute to the church, which bridges the gap between tuition paid and actual cost. When that doesn’t happen as expected, it leads to budget deficits.
  - b. 50% of school families that are registered as active parishioners currently contribute less than \$5 to the Parish annually.
  
5. How will this policy be enacted in light of the fact that there is currently a pandemic?
  - a. If you are uncomfortable attending Mass in person for the time being, the expectation is that you view the live-streamed mass via the Parish website and stay active in other facets of the Parish where you are comfortable and able. You can submit an envelope via any of the methods listed above or contribute via Faith Direct.