



The St. Louis de Montfort Catholic School Disciple Scholarship Guidelines

St. Louis de Montfort Catholic School is a parish school that warmly welcomes all families committed to living our mission. The school mission statement is:

St. Louis de Montfort is a Roman Catholic school committed to educating the whole child through discipleship and academic excellence. We are dedicated to becoming the best versions of ourselves as we learn to know, love and serve Christ in the world.

In May 2022, our parish released our Pastorate Vision Plan. This plan aligned with the Uniting in Heart 2030 Diocesan Pastoral Plan of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. In October 2022, we shared with all families the four dimensions we adopted of being a fully engaged parishioner at St. Louis de Montfort: Prayer, Study, Generosity, and Evangelization.

In the past, St. Louis de Montfort had offered two tuition rates 1) a “parishioner tuition rate” to active parishioners of SLDM and active parishioners at Holy Spirit, St. John Vianney and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and 2) a “non-parishioner tuition rate” for those who are not Catholic or not associated with one of the above named parishes. “Active parishioner” had not been fully defined in the Family Handbook; in the past, the St. Louis de Montfort Family Handbook simply stated:

Parishioner rates are given to active parishioners. All families will be asked annually to have a completed Stewardship Renewal Commitment Card on file. Families who do not qualify for parishioner rates will be notified. The parishioner must be the parent or primary guardian with whom the student resides.

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, in line with the four dimensions of a fully engaged parishioner that have been adopted, SLDM now provides a clear path to help families grow as disciples and maintain a tuition option that is most appropriate for their family. In the 2026-2027 school year, there will continue to be three tuition options available to families. The three tuition options will be:

SLDM Parishioner “Disciple Scholarship” Tuition	Active Parishioner at other Catholic Parishes Tuition	Full Tuition All Other Families
<i>A registered member at our parish that follows the guidelines detailed below</i>	<i>A registered member of another Catholic parish that follows the guidelines their parish defines</i>	<i>Pay the difference between the base tuition and their Choice Scholarship amount per K-8 child</i>
Base tuition cost after Choice Scholarship of \$500 per K-8 child	Base tuition cost after Choice Scholarship of \$1,500 per K-8 child	

** Finalized base tuition for 26-27 will be \$10,000 per child*



It is our hope that every parishioner at St. Louis de Montfort School will choose the SLDM Disciple Scholarship tuition option. Each of us is striving to know, love, and serve Christ in this world and to live forever with Him in the next. This is true for ourselves and our children. **The best experience for St. Louis de Montfort students is one where their *families* are involved and engaged in their Catholic faith.** There are many ways to achieve this, guided by the four dimensions of an engaged parishioner. The path to the Discipleship Scholarship tuition option for families at St. Louis de Montfort includes: *Prayer, Study, Generosity, and Evangelization.*

PRAYER

Mass Attendance

Participation in Sunday Mass is a precept of the Catholic Church and is vital to a life of discipleship. On Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass (Canon 1247, CCC 1389). By regularly participating in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, families can grow in faith together as they receive the graces of the Sacrament. If Sunday Mass is the source and summit of our faith, then parents who want a Catholic education for their children will make sure the family attends Mass faithfully on Sundays.

The expectations regarding Mass attendance do not apply simply to the Catholic parents, but to the students as well. All Catholic students enjoying the benefits of Discipleship Scholarship Tuition rates are expected to attend Mass faithfully.

Minimum Expectation - Prayer: Students and their parents shall attend at least 75% of Sunday Masses at St. Louis de Montfort (39 out of 52 weeks).

- Attendance is recorded by the use of a touchscreen kiosk located both in the Narthex and at the east church entrance by the altar.
- Tap the search bar, enter the first three letters of your last name, when your name appears, tap your name and select “check-in,” tap “done.”
- The kiosk check-in system began on June 29, 2024.
- You may also use your phone and scan the QR code located by the kiosk as well.



STUDY

Parent Catechesis - Faith Formation

The Catechism states, “Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.” (CCC 2226). Each of us has a responsibility to grow in our knowledge of the faith so we can grow in our love of the Lord.

Minimum Expectation - Study: Parents/guardians shall attend at least one adult faith formation event each year through St. Louis de Montfort. Our parish offers many formation opportunities that will qualify as a parent catechesis program including, *but not limited to:*

- CRHP Weekend
- The Rescue Project
- Courageous Men’s conference
- Exodus 90 or Magnify 90
- Father’s Ministry
- MOMS Ministry
- Mary’s Way
- Bible Studies
- Barstool Theology
- SLDM Day Retreats
- Marriage Enrichment Events
- The Third Option Marriage Program
- Parish Mission Talks
- Blessed Carlo Initiative Speaker Series
- Special presentations by our priests at SLDM
- Special presentation by invited speakers to SLDM



GENEROSITY

Volunteer

The Catechism states, “A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.” (CCC 1803). Each of us has been blessed by God with gifts and talents to use to build up the kingdom of God. It is our responsibility to understand these gifts and find the right opportunity to use them at our parish and school.

Minimum Expectation - Generosity:

1. Each family is required to fill out and return the yearly “Stewardship Renewal and Commitment Card.”

2. Additionally, each parent/guardian shall give back by volunteering in at least one parish or school activity each year. Our calendar and campus are filled with liturgical celebrations, faith formation opportunities, social events, festivals, and more. We know it can be difficult to make time for some of these activities, but it is even more difficult to become a disciple alone. Our parish and school offers many opportunities, including *but not limited to*:

- SLDM CYO Coach
- SLDM PTO Involvement
- School Involvement (room parent, carpool duty, classroom volunteer, etc.)
- Cardinal Cafe Worker
- Catechist for RE
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd leader
- RCIA Sponsor
- Small Group facilitator
- Food Pantry volunteer
- Participation in the Church Choir
- Liturgical Ministry roles at the Church
- Fall Festival Worker
- Mardi de Montfort Worker
- Field Trip Chaperones



EVANGELIZATION

Share The Good News

The Catechism states, “Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be ‘the universal sacrament of salvation,’ the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder... strives to preach the Gospel to all men.” Our Lord commanded, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age.” (CCC 849) The preaching of the Gospel is the purpose and mission of the Church, and it is incumbent upon us to share the Good News of salvation in Christ with those in our circle of influence.

Minimum Expectation - Evangelization - While there *is not* a minimum expectation for this dimension, we believe the natural outflow of a fully engaged Catholic focused on Prayer, Study and Generosity will be an impulse to share our faith with others. A few simple examples are listed below:

- Invite family, relatives, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to Mass at our parish.
- Pass along a podcast that has been meaningful for you
- Share a link to a homily that moved you to action
- Participate in workshops to better tell your own witness of how Christ impacts your life
- Articulate the Gospel message to others using the Rescue Project framework of Created, Captured, Rescued, Response
- Be a visible voice for protection of the unborn at a Right to Life rally
- Express your pride in Catholic education during Catholic Schools Week



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I opt into the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition rate?

When it comes time to register for the school year in October/November, each family will fill out a tuition rate Opt-In form. This will indicate your intention to participate in the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option, which, upon completion of the requirements, will result in use of the SLDM Discipleship scholarship Tuition rate for the school year for your family.

Why the change from the previous “Parishioner Rate?”

We believe the **SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition** option will more effectively strengthen Catholic families and promote our mission and vision to develop Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ. We believe the best experience for St. Louis de Montfort students is one where their families are involved and engaged in their Catholic faith. We are dedicated to helping our families become the best versions of themselves as we learn to know, love and serve Christ in the world. This is best done as a family active in our community.

Does the amount paid for the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition rate cover all school costs?

No, the St. Louis de Montfort parish subsidizes the cost of every child that attends St. Louis de Montfort school at a total cost of approximately 20% of annual Sunday collections. This financial support is needed even with Full Tuition.

We recognize it is a financial sacrifice to seek a quality, Catholic education for your child(ren) at St. Louis de Montfort Catholic School, and we are so very grateful. The benefits for parents and their children of active participation in the four dimensions of an active parishioner are worth the additional parish resources we commit to the school for those families who qualify for the Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option.

Why are we requiring Mass attendance verification?

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, and it is essential to the life of an active Catholic disciple of Jesus. The verification of Mass attendance using the touchscreen kiosk is an accountability system to help families stay committed to this vital practice and guide them toward making it a routine for their children.

Why is Sunday Mass attendance only required 75% of Sundays during the year?

As Catholics, we should attend Mass every Sunday. (CCC 2180-2182). There are two reasons for this percentage: 1) there will be times families attend another parish while on vacation or traveling.



75% allows us to not try to track people ‘getting credit’ for those visits. 2) We are trying to encourage families who may not be in the habit of weekly Mass attendance to work toward the goal of 100%. Our desire is that all families would be present at the Sacred Liturgy each weekend, but we believe that we can still support families for making strides to get to that goal.

What if I forget to check-in at the kiosk before Mass or there is a wait to check in?

Any member of the family can check-in before *or after mass*. There will also be a “QR” code available that will allow parents to use their phones to check-in.

With as much travel as occurs in the summer, are these months part of the equation?

Yes, families shall attend at least 75% of Sunday Masses at St. Louis de Montfort. There is no need to ‘prove’ you attended Mass while traveling or on vacation (although we certainly encourage this... it’s just already within the lowering of the expectation from 100% to 75%).

What if I go to Mass at other Catholic churches elsewhere for a weekend?

During those times you must be out of town (hopefully, no more than 25% of the time), we certainly encourage you to attend Mass. However, we have no way of recording your attendance and therefore cannot count it toward your parishioner status. While life circumstances might necessitate going to Mass elsewhere, parish membership means you think of St. Louis de Montfort as your spiritual home. If you are an active parishioner at another local catholic parish, there is the Active Parishioner at other Catholic Parishes Tuition option.

What if I have obligations that make it difficult or impossible to get to Mass on the weekend?

For those families who have conflicts with extracurricular activities or social and work calendars, we invite them to make a commitment to participating in Mass to be eligible for the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option. This may mean having to say “no” to certain activities to give priority to faith formation. For those families who have extenuating circumstances that make Sunday Mass attendance impossible or challenging, we are willing to work with you to form a plan that suits your family. If you have extenuating circumstances please contact a St. Louis de Montfort parish priest.

What if illness prevents attendance?

For the usual, simple illnesses, absence should not generally exceed 25% of the time. Even if one parent is ill, the children can come to Mass with the other parent. In the case of critical illness which affects the entire rhythm of family life, please contact the parish priest. First of all, we would want to know in order to provide support as needed. Secondly, your circumstances can be kept in mind when the next review is conducted.



How are the Study and Generosity requirements tracked?

Parents can track these requirements throughout the year using a Google Survey link that is shared each October when school registration begins for current families. The link is a live working doc and can be updated throughout the year.

Are these policies in place at other parishes?

Yes, many other parishes also require participation in the life of their parishes in order for parishioner tuition rates to apply. More parishes with schools are moving to this or a similar model each year.

How will I know my progress and what if we cannot complete all the commitment opportunities?

If families are unable to complete the opportunities, they will be ineligible for the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option for the following school year. If families encounter unforeseen circumstances that prevent them completing the opportunities, they should contact the parish priest to discuss. We will gauge progress twice a year to understand where families stand and will only reach out to families who are not on track to talk through their situation and determine how we can help them succeed.

What if I do not attend a Catholic church? What if I am not Catholic?

We are thrilled to have all our school families engaged in our school, regardless of their religious affiliation or home parish. However, the full SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option is intended to advance our mission of forming Catholic disciples at St. Louis de Montfort. This means that non-Catholic families are not eligible to receive the Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option and will pay Full Tuition, save the Indiana State Choice Scholarship. If you are interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the parish office to discuss the OCIA process!

What if I am Catholic but belong to a parish other than St. Louis de Montfort?

Families who are Catholic but are parishioners at other Catholic parishes may choose the Active Parishioner at other Catholic Parishes Tuition rate. This tuition rate is slightly higher than the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option, but less than the Full Tuition. For this option, a letter of good standing from the Pastor (who will know St. Louis de Montfort requirements) at your home parish will be required each year.



Do I have to participate in the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition Option?

No, the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition is an optional path for St. Louis de Montfort families. While we understand that some families may choose not to participate, for families that may have unique circumstances, we are willing to work toward a solution that meets the needs of families and our desire for the formation of our parish. Families that do not choose the SLDM Discipleship Scholarship Tuition option or the Active Parishioner at other Catholic Parishes tuition option will pay Full Tuition.

Why is there a strong push for increased parent involvement?

There is much research on the impact of the parents on the faith formation of their children and whether they engage in their faith over their lifetime. We believe an investment in Catholic Education will be most fruitful for the children when their parents are learning and growing in the faith and children see that consistency at home. One of the greatest advantages of joining a Catholic school is being a part of a strong, supportive Catholic community. Our students get their best education when their parents are part of their development.