

June 6, 2021

Dear Families,

Thank you for your ongoing involvement in our school and your help in this unprecedented year. The end of the school year is here, and while things certainly do slow down around Old St. Mary's in the summer, we continue to plan for many new and exciting things for the future.

I am writing to let you know that an engaged parishioner tuition rate will be implemented for the 2022-23 school year (not this coming August 2021). This decision has been made after recommendation by the Parish Finance Council and with the support of the Parish Council and School Board. This change is to ensure the continued financial vitality and viability of both the parish and the school.

This is not an uncommon practice among Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, especially in Chicago. We have prayerfully discussed, researched extensively and have come up with a structure that we believe fits our parish. We feel that this is the right time to move forward with this structure.

A parishioner tuition rate will be offered to engaged parishioners. Elements of this plan will be sent to families and the parish later this month. School families that are engaged parishioners are fully registered in the parish, regularly attend Mass and participate in the sacraments, volunteer for ministry and parish events, avail themselves of faith sharing and educational opportunities, and provide meaningful financial support to the parish.

While actual tuition rates will not be known until winter 2021-22, opportunities to participate in the life of the parish in the areas described above are available now. To help facilitate parish engagement, the parish is in the beginning stages of launching its own app - which will enable us to remain connected as a parish and will be an integral part of the practice of being engaged parishioners.

Please be patient with us as we launch the details and know that we are moving to this structure for the overall well-being of Old St. Mary's School and Parish.

Have a blessed summer!

Fr. Brad