

# St. Matthew Catholic Church

[www.stmatthewcatholic.org](http://www.stmatthewcatholic.org)

November 15, 2021

Dear MACS parents,

We are delighted that you have chosen a Catholic education for your child/children and thank you for your support of Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS). Each year, in January, the MACS office asks us to review the list of families from our parish with children currently enrolled in order to renew their status as a 'participating' Catholic family and thereby qualify for a reduced tuition rate. Mass attendance is the most important criteria for determining 'participating' status, although financial and volunteer support are also important. In a parish our size, we determine consistent Sunday Mass attendance, by noting either the weekly use of offertory envelopes or offertory cards for those giving electronically through Faith Direct.

**In view of the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic during the 2020-21 school year, all school families registered at St. Matthew were granted 'participating' status as a courtesy. For 2021-22, we are required to review and certify the participation of each family in order to renew their qualification.**

Therefore, we send this reminder of the expectation for every MACS family to show evidence of their weekly Mass attendance, as a minimum criterion for renewal of 'participating' family status. (We remind all families who may have been exercising caution in returning to Mass that the dispensation for Mass attendance due to the pandemic has been lifted and St. Matthew is working hard to make Masses as safe as possible for those attending.) Financial and volunteer support of the parish is also important. As a point of reference, please note that St. Matthew contributes over \$1M each year (or \$900/child enrolled at MACS and registered at St. Matthew) to MACS in support of Catholic education.

We thank you for your continued support and welcome you back if you have been away because of the pandemic. If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Sandy Sawyer, Membership Coordinator ([sandras@stmatthewcatholic.org](mailto:sandras@stmatthewcatholic.org)) or if you need Faith Direct offertory cards, please call Faith Direct at (866) 507-8757.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Father John Allen

Parish Priest