



ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Celebrating Tradition, Faith & Leadership

Faith Community Scholarship Explanation

Assumption Catholic School (ACS), like all Catholic schools, exists to carry out the mission of the Church, which is to make Christian disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:19-20). When it comes to our children, it is the responsibility first and fundamentally of Catholic *parents* to raise their children as disciples of the Lord, but Catholic schools can and do serve as indispensable allies in this work, building on and deepening the faith received first at home.

Owing to this mission, **it is the desire of the Whatcom County Pastors that every Catholic family should have the opportunity to send their children to Catholic school** and that finances should never be an obstacle. Our parishes have previously sent an annual subsidy to the school in order to keep costs low enough for most people to attend, but education costs continue to rise and the power of our subsidy to keep tuition low is diminishing. As such, beginning in the 2023 – 2024 school year, the money we previously used as a subsidy will be redirected into a **Faith Community Scholarship, used to directly subsidize the tuition of individual parish families**. Our purpose is the same – to make Catholic school accessible to Catholic families – but now we are going to be working with those families directly.

In the past few decades, however, it has become painfully clear that even exceptional work by our Catholic schools cannot overcome a lack of faith at home. As a rule, unless a Catholic student prays at home and attends Mass weekly, there is nothing our school can do that will successfully bring them to a point of discipleship. To that end, **it only makes sense for our parishes to use the Faith Community Scholarship to assist families who are already doing the work of discipleship at home**. Our application for this scholarship will ask about your family's faith practices because we want to make sure our parish resources are always being used, fundamentally, to raise up disciples of the Lord. However, we also know that discipleship is a process, **so please feel free to tell us how you are improving your faith if you are not quite yet where you want to be**.

Finally, the **Faith Community Scholarship has no pre-determined amount**. Our desire is to help every Catholic family attend Catholic school, so the only financial question we ask is **what does your family need to make Catholic school accessible?** Note that we do not define "need". We know that every family is unique, with different financial considerations, so we are trusting our families to let us know what makes sense for them this year. We want your children in Catholic school! Keeping in mind that these scholarships come directly from the Sunday donations of our parishioners, we may or may not have the resources to fund every request, but we will try to do so within the limits of our parish budgets.

Attached to this letter you will find the shared application for the Faith Community Scholarship. Please return it to the school office by **March 15**.

Thank you for raising your children as disciples of Jesus Christ!

Fr. Moore

Pastor, Church of the Assumption

On behalf, also, of Fr. Ross, Fr. Thumbi, and Fr. Cancin