

May 29, 2026

Dear St. Francis Holy Ghost Catholic School Parents,

Our mission is ***Forming Disciples of Jesus Christ!*** We are truly grateful that you have chosen St. Francis Holy Ghost Catholic School for your child(ren)'s spiritual, academic and service experience.

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, we remain committed to strengthening the value of our school and enhancing our students' Catholic school experience. With the generous support of the Jersey County Catholic Parishes, we continue to assist Catholic parents in fulfilling their primary responsibility: raising their children in the Catholic faith. We also remain committed to supporting non-Catholic families who value and choose a Catholic education for their child(ren).

Our school is funded through three primary sources: tuition, parish subsidy, and fundraising/donations. We deeply understand both the tremendous value of a Catholic education and the financial sacrifice it can represent for families. Our goal remains to keep our school affordable for all families committed to Catholic education, while staying true to our mission to educate students spiritually and academically.

Tuition rates for the 2026–2027 school year have been finalized with input from the School Board Finance Committee and our pastor, Fr. Marty. In setting these rates, we focused on three priorities:

1. Ensuring the resources necessary to provide an outstanding Catholic education;
2. Keeping tuition affordable relative to other area Catholic schools;
3. Maintaining financial stability for our school.

We believe this year's tuition structure achieves these goals. For families who qualify for the Faithful Servant Scholarship, the increase is 10% or approximately \$46 – \$52 more per month, over a 12 month period.

Why the Increase?

Over this past school year, we faced two significant and separate increases to insurance rates that could not have been foreseen. These, along with increased costs in utilities and maintenance amounted to more than one-hundred thousand dollars of unexpected expenses. These exuberant costs are not expected to go away.

Additionally, we will continue to offer salaries competitive with other Catholic schools throughout the Diocese.

Steps already taken

We are already taking steps to minimize expenditures. We are seeking out more affordable vendors to supply maintenance and cleaning supplies as well as any additional classroom materials needed.

Over the past year and into next year, we have reduced the certified teaching staff by three positions, saving an expected \$120,000 in salaries alone, not including benefits.

Tuition

Tuition covers about 50% of our operational costs, which will exceed \$2.3 million next year. Tuition revenue accounts for just over \$1.3 million.

Parish Subsidy

Our parishes are essential in keeping tuition affordable. Their contribution—over \$630,000—accounts for about 27% of our total operational costs.

We will continue with the **Faithful Servant Scholarship** that replaced the traditional parish subsidy last year, awarded to active parishioners who:

- Attend Mass at least 51% of Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation;
- Have been baptized in the Catholic faith.

Each qualifying family will receive a \$4,015 annual scholarship per family. The **Active Parishioner Agreement** reflects this scholarship and applies to families registered at Holy Ghost, St. Francis Xavier, St. Mary's Westwood, or St. Patrick's Parishes. Tentative approval of the Faithful Servant Scholarship awards will be finalized and communicated in the next two weeks.

Fundraising and Donations

Fundraising and donations remain essential in closing the gap between tuition/parish support and our actual expenses. Events like Harvest Fest and the Knights of Columbus Dinner Auction play a vital role in this effort. Your participation, especially in HarvestFest, directly helps reduce tuition by keeping our largest fundraiser successful.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Alumni Scholarship continues to provide vital support for qualifying families. Applications are available through your FACTS Family Portal. We are grateful to the dedicated parishioners who faithfully organize the two primary fundraising events that sustain the Alumni Foundation scholarships. We invite all families to participate in and support both the Alumni Foundation Golf Tournament and Trivia Night.

Applying for scholarships through the FACTS portal will be opened on Monday, June 8, 2026.

The following pages show the 2026-2027 Tuition Plan for K-8 and PreK.

K-8 Tuition Plan for 2025–2026

Active Parishioner Agreement (includes \$4,015 Faithful Servant Scholarship):

Active Parishioner - Families who have demonstrated regular Mass attendance as described by the new Family School Agreement (FSA). The new FSA requires 51% Mass attendance and being baptized in the Catholic faith to qualify for the Faithful Servant Scholarship.

# Children	Base Plan	Less Scholarship	Annual Tuition
1	\$10,135	\$4,015	\$6,120
2	\$10,545	\$4,015	\$6,530
3	\$10,955	\$4,015	\$6,940

Base Agreement (Non-qualifying families):

Base Agreement - non-active parishioner, non-parishioner and non-Catholic families who do not qualify for the Faithful Servant Scholarship.

# Children	Base Plan
1	\$10,135
2	\$10,545
3	\$10,955

PreK Tuition Plan for 2025–2026

PreK 3 Program	Tuition	Monthly Payment (10 months)
PreK 3 – Half Day (3 days)	\$2033.50	\$203.35
PreK 3 – Half Day (5 days)	\$3389.10	\$338.91

PreK 3 – Full Day (3 days)	\$3,953.95	\$395.40
PreK 3 – Full Day (5 days)	\$5,648.50	\$564.85
PreK 4 Program	Tuition	Monthly Payment
PreK 4 – Full Day (5 days)	\$5,648.50	\$564.85
PreK 4 – Full Day (4 full, 1 half)	\$5,083.65	\$508.37
PreK 4 – Full Day (3 full, 2 half)	\$4,518.80	\$451.88
PreK 4 – Full Day (2 full, 3 half)	\$3,953.95	\$395.40
PreK 4 – Half Day (5 days)	\$3,389.10	\$339.91

The 2026-2027 Tuition Plan reflects a 10% increase across all levels, including K-8, PreK, and the parish subsidy.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished together this year. Your partnership has made our progress possible, and we look forward to the year ahead—continuing to grow in faith as a school family and embracing the fullness of life that makes St. Francis/Holy Ghost Catholic School such a special place for our children.

It's been a joy to see so many of our students participating in Mass. I'm excited to see what God has planned for us in the coming year.

God Bless you,

Dr. Vincent Schlueter