

SACRED HEART CHURCH

CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Since 1895, the people of Sacred Heart Church have been committed to educating our children in the Catholic faith. Even without a parish school, that mission will continue throughout the second century as a community of faith. We will continue to promote the values that were proudly proclaimed in the "Mission Statement" of Sacred Heart School: ". . . committed to preparing our students for success in the 21st Century . . . dedicated to 'nourishing both mind and spirit' for the dignity and betterment of human life, and for the greater glory of God."

Beginning in 2007, the people of Sacred Heart will embark on the development of *Catholic Educational Grants* to the active members of our faith community of Sacred Heart Church. It is our hope that, together, we can all help to raise our children in the Catholic faith, educating them in academic institutions that are founded upon our Catholic faith. The people of Sacred Heart will offer financial help to all those families who want their children to receive a Catholic education, so that they can go forth and be proud to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Sacred Heart Church will provide grants to parishioners who are *active and committed families who have been members for a minimum of one year*. The commitment requires weekly attendance at Sunday Mass throughout the entire year, weekly contributions to the offertory, and involvement at parish activities. Upon acceptance by the Pastor and Grant Committee, a family requesting Catholic Educational Grants will enter into a contract with Sacred Heart Church.

PARTIES TO THIS CONTRACT

The contract is entered into between Sacred Heart Church, and the parish family. Signatures will be those of the Pastor, Chairperson of Grant Committee, and the Parents/Legal Guardians of the children who would benefit from the grants.

CONTRACT TERM

The contract shall cover the fiscal year; beginning July 1, 2007 and completing June 30, 2008, for the responsibilities required by this contract are for the entire year, and *not* just during the school year.

AGREEMENT TERMS

Both parties agree to abide completely and enthusiastically to ALL of the following terms of the contract, *without exception*.

Sacred Heart Church obligates itself to:

1. Offer a financial grant to any Catholic elementary school or high school that is chosen by the parties of this contract.
2. Make tuition payments to the chosen Catholic school in nine equal monthly installments throughout the academic year.

The family obligates itself to:

1. Attend Saturday afternoon/Sunday morning Mass *every week, WITH THE CHILDREN*, at Sacred Heart Church throughout the entire calendar year.
2. Contribute a minimum of \$10 to the weekly offertory collection.
3. The son/daughter is to be encouraged to become an altar server as they approach the 5th Grade.
4. Work at parish fund-raisers/dinners during the year.
 - Parish families are obligated to work at least *20 hours* during the term of this contract.
 - “Work” would involve whatever needs to be done in the broadest of terms; i.e., set-up, clean-up, etc.
5. Purchase OR sell a minimum of 3 “Big Give-Away” tickets.
6. Purchase OR sell \$300 worth of tickets (in any combination) on the car to be raffled off at Parish Day.
7. If, however, the family *does not fulfill* the contract obligations as outlined in this contract, at any time of the year, Sacred Heart Church *will not pay* the remaining monies of the grant. If a family is dropped from the grant program, they cannot re-enter it for at least one full academic year, providing they fulfilled their obligations prior to the following school year.
8. The family is responsible for paying any and all registration fees for each academic year.
9. Each family must apply for all available financial aid available (e.g. STAR foundation, Diocesan Aid) before any monies from Sacred Heart Church will be offered. Copies of completed applications and copies of granted/denied responses are to be returned to Sacred Heart Church.

LET IT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT, SHOULD THE FAMILY FAIL TO FULFILL THE ABOVE OBLIGATIONS, IT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY AND IMMEDIATELY ELIMINATED FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS! FURTHERMORE, THE FAMILY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO REAPPLY FOR AT LEAST ONE FULL ACADEMIC YEAR.

New parish family’s entry into program

The family must be an *active* member of the parish for one full year before consideration is given for acceptance into the program. During that year, the family is expected to comply with requirements 1 through 9 as outlined above. (This one-year period allows the parish to assess whether the incoming family is truly serious about becoming part of our parish. If the new family does not demonstrate its sincerity about becoming part of our parish family by fulfilling noted requirements, the family will be disqualified from consideration of a Catholic Educational Grant.

Schedule of tuition payments by Sacred Heart Church

If the family has met its obligations for that month, Sacred Heart Church will forward to its respective school that portion of the tuition and fee payments.

If the family has not met their obligations, Sacred Heart Church will *not* make any payment, and will so advise the school, as well as the family. At that point, the family assumes responsibility directly to the school for payment of remaining tuition and fees.

Responsibility to the Church Offertory

Since the Parish of Sacred Heart exists and survives on the generosity of its members, it is vital and necessary that each member actively contribute to the stewardship, financial stability, and well-being of our faith community. *If a family is truly enduring financial hardship, they are to inform the Grant Committee, to request an exemption.* The only successful way that Sacred Heart Church can truly monitor Mass attendance is through the envelope activity. Parents are expected to bring their children to weekly Mass, even through summer months. If families are unable to attend a Sacred Heart Liturgy (e.g. will be away on vacation), they are to inform the committee in writing. However, missed offertory contributions must be made up.

Amount of Elementary Catholic Educational Grants

Sacred Heart Church will pay educational grants to any Catholic elementary school that accepted family chooses. Sacred Heart Church will pay **\$1,500 per year** for one child, and then increase the grant by **\$500** for each additional child, from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

- **\$1,500 for one child**
- **\$2,000 for 2 children**
- **\$2,500 for 3 children**
- **etc.**

* Educational grants will not exceed tuition that is owed *after* realization of tuition assistance.

EXAMPLE:

The tuition for Blessed Sacrament school is \$2,250 per child, \$3,020 for 2 children, and \$3,280 for 3 children. The Detisch family of Sacred Heart Church has 3 children. They are offered \$300 from the Diocese of Erie for tuition assistance. The Detisch family's personal responsibility to Blessed Sacrament School is only \$480 for the entire school year.

If the Detisch family is offered \$1,000 through a number of tuition assistance programs through the Diocese of Erie, Star Foundation, or others, Sacred Heart Church would only have to pay \$2,280, and the Detisch family would not have to pay anything for that year.

Amount of High School Catholic Elementary Grants

Sacred Heart Church will pay educational grants to Cathedral Prep, Villa Maria Academy, and Mercyhurst Prep. Sacred Heart Church will pay **\$2,000 per student/per year** through graduation.* Family is expected to apply for all financial assistance available. Grants will be paid upon realization of all available tuition assistance.

*Educational grants will not exceed tuition that is owed *after* realization of tuition assistance.