



January 15, 2026

Dear St. Catherine Labouré school families,

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, we want to share important updates about our school and parish finances, as well as the steps we are taking to ensure long-term stability for our community.

Understanding Our Financial Picture

School and parish activities may appear separate; however, the parish subsidizes the school operations by approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually. St. Catherine Labouré Parish and School operate as one unified community—spiritually and financially—and our shared mission is supported by a set of resources that sustains our ministries, facilities, and the high-quality Catholic education we provide.

Tuition, parish collections (offertory), fundraising (including auction), and all other income sources support the same campus and long-term needs. Regarding the school expenses, the current cost to educate a child at St. Catherine Labouré is approximately **\$7,500 per student** prior to capital improvements and **\$8,000 per student** with the projected capital improvements. Tuition, fundraising, and other school revenues do not fully cover this amount, resulting in the parish subsidizing school operations by roughly **\$440,000 annually**, or about **\$1,000 per student**.

In recent years, and currently, we are facing several financial pressures, including:

- **Lost grant revenue** that previously helped offset operating costs (Our grants of approximately \$250,000 during Covid have expired.)
- **Growing capital improvement needs, including, but not limited to:**
 - PA and Fire Alarm upgrades and replacements
 - Roofing and HVAC replacements
- **Rising inflation** across utilities, supplies, and services
- **Stagnant offertory collections** despite increasing expenses

Tuition & Fee Adjustments for Next Year

After thoughtful consideration and careful financial review, we will implement the following for the upcoming school year:

- **6% tuition increase (\$7,200 for 1 student, \$11,000 for 2 student and \$14,850 for 3+ student families)**
- **\$250 per student Registration/Technology Fee and \$75 per student Activity Fee**
- **\$400 per-student School Improvement Assessment**

This assessment will allow us to address essential key capital needs promptly, avoid unnecessary debt (and the resulting interest on said debt), and fairly share responsibility across our school community. We recognize that any increase brings challenges, and this decision was not made lightly. These changes are essential to sustain our daily operations, maintain program quality, retain excellent staff, and support campus safety. Please note that there are various scholarships available for financial assistance. Refer to communication from Penny Weiss regarding the various options.

An assessment fee of \$400 per student will be charged for the 26/27 school year. These fees will be added to your tuition and processed according to your current payment plans.

Registration fees (\$250) and Activity Fees (\$75) will be charged per student as one fee of \$325 and will be due at the time of registration.

Addressing Long-Term Capital Needs

Between 2025 and 2030, St. Catherine Labouré faces nearly **\$2 million** in necessary capital projects. These are not optional enhancements, but critical improvements required to ensure safe and functional facilities.

Because tuition and offertory currently cover operational needs and there is only a small amount remaining for small scale capital projects, the School Improvement Assessment is being introduced now rather than shifting the full cost into recurring tuition or relying exclusively on future fundraising.

Our intention is for this to be a one-time assessment. However, future assessments will depend on offertory trends, enrollment, capital project timing, and other unforeseen factors. Depending on those variables, there could be an additional assessment or the costs may be incorporated into tuition in future years.

Our Commitment to Transparency & Stewardship

We understand that financial decisions impact families deeply. Both parish and school consider all viable options for securing additional funds, including various safety grants, insurance claims/payments, and other considerations available to us. We are committed to:

- Responsible stewardship of every dollar
- Clear communication about how funds are used
- Maintaining financial stability for the parish and school
- Ensuring that St. Catherine Labouré continues to thrive for years to come

St. Catherine Labouré is blessed with a vibrant, engaged, and growing community. The life of our parish is visible each day—in our classrooms, at Mass, through our ministries, and in the relationships we share. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure strengthens our mission and enables us to care for our children and our future.

Thank you for your continued support, your prayerful consideration, and for being an essential part of the St. Catherine Labouré family. Should you have any questions about these changes or our financial plans, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude,

Father Dominic, Your School Board, and Your Parish Finance and Budgetary Committee