



January 2016

Dear Catholic School Parents,

As we approach our annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate what makes Catholic education distinctive and honor those who contribute to our schools' excellence. It is only fitting then, that I honor you for choosing Catholic education for your sons and daughters.

The Catholic Schools Week theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." The theme highlights the fact that while our schools are communities themselves, they are also vital to the larger ministry in our archdiocese. From Kenosha to Fond du Lac, from Beaver Dam to Milwaukee, we serve the state of Wisconsin and the universal Church.

Learning begins at home. As your children's primary teacher and role model, you have a big responsibility. You are not alone in your efforts. Parish leaders, school leaders and staff are all partners in that education. Everyone shares your commitment to offering a learning environment grounded in faith, discipline and moral growth, as well as superior academic achievement. As we approach Catholic Schools Week, I ask that you take time to honor the leaders at your school.

By choosing a Catholic school for your children, you are showing that you value the Gospel message. Choosing for your child a Catholic education tells the world that you believe that faith, knowledge and service should be woven into every aspect of the school day – from the curriculum to spiritual formation to extracurricular activities. Christ's presence is evident through you and your children. Because of you, our communities near and far will reap both spiritual and tangible benefits.

Thank you again for your continued support of Catholic education. Have a blessed Catholic Schools Week!

With assurance of prayers for you and your family, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

# **Important School Choice Meeting**

**Thursday Feb. 4 5:30 Church Hall**

(Make-up date – Thursday, March 3 at 5:30)

There are some big changes to the School Choice Program for the 2016-17 school year. Come to this meeting for details on the new income guidelines which have risen substantial, new residency guidelines (Choice is now not just Milwaukee – Tosa, West Allis and others are eligible), and the new parish Choice Cap. This meeting is for current Choice families, families on the Waiting List, families who may newly qualify, and anyone wanting to learn more about the program. Topics to be covered:

1. St. Sebastian Parish has a new definition of the Choice Cap. In past years, there was a 50% Choice cap on total school enrollment. We have amended the Choice Cap to reflect our Catholic Identity - the new St. Sebastian School Choice Cap is: No more than 30% of Choice students can be non-Catholic.
2. All Milwaukee Choice applications are on-line now and will be only accepted March 1-20. You will learn how to create a log-in account and fill out a Choice application. You will also learn how to provide the school with residency and income documents. All these details must be completed by March 20!
3. All Milwaukee Choice current Waiting List applications are also on-line now and will be only accepted March 1-20.
4. New non- Milwaukee Choice applications, called the Wisconsin Choice Program, are on-line now and will be only accepted February 1-April 20 . You will learn how to create a log-in account and fill out a Choice application. You will also learn how to provide the school with residency and income documents. All these details must be completed by April 20!
5. You can get any questions answered by Fr. Larry or Mr. Hohl.

We will also set up some computer lab sessions in the Open Enrollment period of March 1-20 for you come to school and get help in completing your Choice applications.

**See the back of this sheet for income charts for the Milwaukee Choice Program (MPCP) and the Wisconsin Choice Program WPCP).**

**How does someone qualify for the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)?**

A student qualifies for the MPCP on the basis of their residency in the city of Milwaukee and their family income, if applicable. For the 2016-17 school year, a new student must have a family income at or below the amount listed in the Table 1. A student continuing in the program or a student that was on a MPCP waiting list at a MPCP school in the prior year does not have to show income eligibility. Family income includes the income of the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that reside in the same household as the student applicant. If the child's parents/legal guardians are married their income is reduced by \$7,000 when determining income eligibility for the program. Family size includes parents/guardians and their children by birth, marriage or adoption that reside in the same household as the student applicant.

**Table 1**  
**300% of the Federal Poverty Level for 2016-17**

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Maximum Yearly Income</u>
1	\$35,628
2	\$48,219
3	\$60,810
4	\$73,401
5	\$85,992
6	\$98,583

For each additional member add \$12,591.

**How does someone qualify for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)?**

A student qualifies for the WPCP on the basis of their residency and their family income, if applicable. Students must reside in a Wisconsin school district, other than in the city of Milwaukee and Racine Unified School District. Additionally, pupils in the WPCP must meet at least one of the prior year school attendance requirements: (1) been enrolled in a public school in Wisconsin in the 2015-16 school year, (2) have not been enrolled in school in the 2015-16 school year, (3) be applying for kindergarten, first or ninth grade at the private school in the 2016-17 school year or (4) participated in the WPCP in the 2015-16 school year. For the 2016-17 school year, a new student must have a family income at or below the amount listed in the Table 3 below. Students who participated in the WPCP in 2015-16 or were on the DPI's waiting list in 2015-16 are not required to prove that they are income eligible. Family income includes the income of the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that reside in the same household as the student applicant. If the child's parents/legal guardians are married their income is reduced by \$7,000 when determining income eligibility for the program. Family size includes parents/guardians and their children by birth, marriage or adoption that reside in the same household as the student applicant.

**Table 3**  
**185% of the Federal Poverty Level for 2016-17**

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Yearly Income</u>
1	\$21,971
2	\$29,735
3	\$37,499
4	\$45,263
5	\$53,027
6	\$60,791

For each additional member add \$7,764.