

**North American Martyrs
Faithful Steward Scholarship (FSS) and Kateri Scholarship
Updated January 7, 2021**

A Catholic education is one of the best gifts a parent can give their children. As an academic institution, North American Martyrs Catholic School seeks to work in partnership with parents in the intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual, and physical development and growth of their children in harmony with the specific and unique gifts God has given to each child.

Scholarship Program Objectives

North American Martyrs (NAM) school has two scholarships available to families: the **Kateri Scholarship** and the **Faithful Steward Scholarship Program (FSS Program)**.

- The purpose of the **Kateri Scholarship** is to provide financial assistance to families, and is based on financial need.
- The purpose of the **Faithful Steward Scholarship Program (FSS Program)** is to help families deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through scholarships for students to NAM school. The FSS Program provides a formalized process for families to request financial scholarship for NAM school tuition from the parish. The criteria for receiving financial scholarship focuses on faithful stewardship – the giving of our time, talent and treasure.

The FSS Program and Kateri Scholarship are intended to be separate but complimentary to the Diocese **Good Shepherd Scholarship**.

Scholarship Applications

Applications for all three scholarships (FSS Program, Kateri Scholarship and the Good Shepherd Scholarship) are submitted through FACTS, which is a secure, encrypted and confidential website.

- Each family will need to pay the \$35 application FACTS application fee.
- The FSS scholarship includes additional stewardship questions in FACTS.
- If a family is applying for the need-based scholarship (Good Shepherd or Kateri), then tax forms must be submitted through FACTS to verify that the income qualifies.
- If a family is only applying for FSS (not applying for Good Shepherd or Kateri) the requirement for tax forms will be waived.

Good Shepherd Scholarship

The Lincoln Diocese has instituted the Good Shepherd Scholarship (GSS) to provide tuition assistance based on family income and number of children attending a Catholic school. All families who qualify are asked to apply through FACTS. Application deadline is March 31 of each year.

Good Shepherd Scholarship Requirements (must meet 1):

- Have four or more children in Lincoln Catholic Schools K-12, or
- Family income level within the 225% of Poverty Level

For 2021-2022, the GSS is \$1,600. The GSS also covers the \$330 Technology Fee for families meeting income guidelines. See the Lincoln Diocese website for additional information on the Good Shepherd Scholarship: <https://goodshepherdscholarship.com>

Good Shepherd Scholarship	
Income Guidelines – 225% of Poverty Level	
Family Size	Income Level
2	\$39,195
3	\$48,870
4	\$58,950
5	\$69,030
6	\$79,110
7	\$89,190
8	\$99,270
9	\$111,870
10	\$124,470

NAM Kateri Scholarship

The NAM Kateri Scholarship will provide tuition support for families between the 225% and 300% Poverty Level. The scholarship amount is 50% of the amount that is provided by the Good Shepard Scholarship for grade school families below the 225% Poverty Level. In 2021-2022, the NAM Kateri Scholarship would be \$800 (50% of \$1,600).

For families with three or less students, a family can qualify for either the Dioceses Good Shepherd Scholarship or the Kateri Scholarship, but not both.

For families with more than three students, it is possible for families to receive the Kateri Scholarship and the Dioceses Good Shepherd Scholarship under the Family Tuition Cap (for the 4th, 5th, etc. students). The Kateri Scholarship also extends the Family Tuition Cap by paying the remaining tuition not covered by the Dioceses Good Shepherd Scholarship, so the 4th, 5th, etc. students do not have to pay any additional tuition. The Kateri Scholarship does not cover the Technology Fees.

Families must apply through FACTS to receive the Kateri Scholarship.

NAM Kateri Scholarship	
Income Guidelines – 300% of Poverty Level	
Family Size	Income Level
2	\$52,260
3	\$65,160
4	\$78,600
5	\$92,040
6	\$105,480
7	\$118,920
8	\$132,360
9	\$149,160
10	\$165,960

NAM Faithful Steward Scholarship (FSS) Program

In order to receive the Faithful Steward Scholarship, every family will be expected to participate in all four areas of stewardship identified below. Each family will be obligated to live stewardship through:

Faithful Witness: Regular practice of our Catholic faith through Mass and the Sacraments

Time: Spending *time* with God in prayer individually, communally and as a family

Talent: Sharing *talents* by serving our parish, school and community

Treasure: Giving *treasure* sacrificially and generously to the church what God has provided you

All families are asked to make a pledge for the upcoming year on how they will commit their Time, Talent and Treasure. Specific stewardship goals are outlined in a separate document which provides application instructions. The parish understands that every family faces different challenges and will need to prayerfully consider what they can give in a sacrificial way to aid in the mission of our school.

To qualify for the Faithful Steward Scholarship, you must be a parishioner of NAM, live within the NAM parish boundaries or have a pre-approved special exception. Any unique circumstances will need to be approved by the Pastor.

Families must apply through FACTS to the Faithful Steward Scholarship.

FSS Program Details

The FSS Program will provide a scholarship to reduce tuition from the actual cost of educating a student (about \$4300/student) to the Minimum Tuition established by the Diocese (\$2,150 for grade school during the 2021-2022 school year). Therefore, the resulting FSS Scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year will be \$2,150.

A family may be awarded both a FSS Scholarship and a need-based scholarship (either Good Shepherd Scholarship or Kateri Scholarship).

Tracking Pledges:

- Faithful Witness
 - Church attendance: tracked and reported by each family on the honors system
- Time
 - Dynamic Catholic: Church will continue to track and family report
 - Prayer Pledge: tracked and reported by each family on the honors system
- Talent
 - Volunteer Time: It is recommended that a Volunteer Committee be established to develop an effective system and process for connecting volunteers with parish and school organizations.
- Treasure
 - Tithe Pledge to NAM: Church will continue to track

Education & Technology Office Fee

- The tuition does not include the Education & Technology Office Fee. The fee is established by the Diocese and will be \$330/student for the 2021-2022 school year. Fee applies to each child (no family cap).

Examples

The following examples illustrate tuition costs for a family with 5 students at NAM for several situations. If a family has students at NAM and other Catholic School (such as Pius X), the tuition breakdown would not be exactly the same.

Example 1 – Family qualifies for Good Shepard Scholarship for need-based assistance (income less than 225% of Poverty level)

Number of Students	Actual Cost of Education (1)	Tech Fees	Tuition + Tech Fees	Faithful Steward Scholarship (2)	Good Shepherd Scholarship (3)	Good Shepherd Tech Fees (4)	Kateri Scholarship (5)	Total Family Cost
1	\$4,300	\$330	\$4,630	(\$2,150)	(\$1,600)	(\$330)	\$0	\$550
2	\$8,600	\$660	\$9,260	(\$4,300)	(\$3,200)	(\$660)	\$0	\$1,100
3	\$12,900	\$990	\$13,890	(\$6,450)	(\$4,800)	(\$990)	\$0	\$1,650
4	\$17,200	\$1,320	\$18,520	(\$8,600)	(\$6,400)	(\$1,320)	(\$550)	\$1,980
5	\$21,500	\$1,650	\$23,150	(\$10,750)	(\$8,000)	(\$1,650)	(\$1,100)	\$2,310

- (1) Actual cost of education (tuition) one student is about \$4,300 per student.
- (2) Assumes family does qualify for Faithful Steward Scholarship.
- (3) Assumes that a family does qualify for Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship based on financial need.
- (4) Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship also covers the Technology Fee when based on financial need.
- (5) Assumes that a family does qualify for tuition cap for more than 3 students, implemented through Kateri Scholarship

Example 2 – Family qualifies for Kateri Scholarship (income between 225% and 300% of Poverty level)

Number of Students	Actual Cost of Education (1)	Tech Fees	Tuition + Tech Fees	Faithful Steward Scholarship (2)	Good Shepherd Scholarship (3)	Good Shepherd Tech Fees (3)	Kateri Scholarship (4) (5)	Total Family Cost
1	\$4,300	\$330	\$4,630	(\$2,150)	\$0	\$0	(\$800)	\$1,680
2	\$8,600	\$660	\$9,260	(\$4,300)	\$0	\$0	(\$1,600)	\$3,360
3	\$12,900	\$990	\$13,890	(\$6,450)	\$0	\$0	(\$2,400)	\$5,040
4	\$17,200	\$1,320	\$18,520	(\$8,600)	(\$1,600)	\$0	(\$2,950)	\$5,370
5	\$21,500	\$1,650	\$23,150	(\$10,750)	(\$3,200)	\$0	(\$3,500)	\$5,700

- (1) Actual cost of education (tuition) one student is about \$4,300 per student.
- (2) Assumes family does qualify for Faithful Steward Scholarship.
- (3) Assumes that a family does not qualify for Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship based on financial need.
- (4) Assumes a family does qualify for Kateri Scholarship based on financial need.
- (5) Assumes that a family does qualify for tuition cap for more than 3 students, implemented through Good Shepherd and Kateri Scholarships

Example 3 – Does not qualify for need-based assistance (income greater than 300% of Poverty level)

Number of Students	Actual Cost of Education (1)	Tech Fees	Tuition + Tech Fees	Faithful Steward Scholarship (2)	Good Shepherd Scholarship (3) (5)	Good Shepherd Tech Fees (3)	Kateri Scholarship (4) (5)	Total Family Cost
1	\$4,300	\$330	\$4,630	\$2,150	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,480
2	\$8,600	\$660	\$9,260	(\$4,300)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,960
3	\$12,900	\$990	\$13,890	(\$6,450)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,440
4	\$17,200	\$1,320	\$18,520	(\$8,600)	(\$1,600)	\$0	(\$550)	\$7,770
5	\$21,500	\$1,650	\$23,150	(\$10,750)	(\$3,200)	\$0	(\$1,100)	\$8,100

- (1) Actual cost of education (tuition) one student is about \$4,300 per student.
- (2) Assumes family does qualify for Faithful Steward Scholarship.
- (3) Assumes that a family does not qualify for Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship based on financial need.
- (4) Assumes a family does not qualify for Kateri Scholarship based on financial need.
- (5) Assumes that a family does qualify for tuition cap for more than 3 students, implemented through Good Shepherd and Kateri Scholarships

FAQs

Application Process

Q1: Is the scholarship application for the school year or for the calendar year?

In a way, both.

- If you qualify for a scholarship, it will be awarded for both semesters of the following School Year. For example, if you submit your scholarship application in March 2021, and are notified that you qualify; then you will receive the scholarship for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.
- The information on the application form that you self-report is for Calendar Year 2020, and your Pledge is for Calendar Year 2021.

Q2: When will I know if I qualify for the scholarship?

The goal is to notify families if they qualify for the scholarship, and how much, by end of April 2021, but may be sooner.

Q3: When is the application due?

The deadline for submittal of your application is March 31, 2021.

Q4: How do I submit my application?

The Kateri Scholarship must apply through FACTS, and financial information must be provided.

The Faithful Steward Scholarship will also be applied through FACTS, *but the financial information does not need to be entered on FACTS unless you are also applying for the Kateri Scholarship.*

Be sure your application is submitted before the deadline.

Q5: Do I have to pay the full tuition, then get reimbursed by the parish for the scholarship?

No. The scholarship amount will be deducted from your tuition bill.

Application Requirements and Evaluation

Q6: Does everyone qualify for the Kateri and Faithful Steward scholarships?

For the Kateri Scholarship, only families that have income between 225% of the poverty level and 300% of the poverty level will qualify.

For the Faithful Steward Scholarship, the intent is that everyone will qualify if they submit an application with a 'good-faith' pledge for next year.

Q7: Who evaluates the scholarship applications and decides who qualifies for the scholarship?

For the Kateri Scholarship, FACTS will notify the Pastor on which families qualify.

For the Faithful Steward Scholarship, collection, review, and evaluation will be led by the Pastor with assistance from a FFS Committee. The Pastor will be responsible for making the final decision.

Q8: I can't give the goal of 5% for tithing of treasure to NAM, so what is the amount that is expected for the tithing pledge?

The goal of 5% of your family's gross household income is strongly suggested since the amount of the scholarship that the parish is providing to your family is so large. However, it is recognized that everyone is at different stages of your individual faith journey. For families who can't currently reach the 5% goal, it is suggested those families pledge to give 1% more than they did last year, and work towards the 5% goal over a 5-year period.

Q9: Our work makes it difficult for us to volunteer, how am I supposed to meet the volunteer requirement?

A list of volunteer opportunities is attached. As can be seen in the list, volunteering can be done for both the Parish and/or the School. NAM has a rich tradition of volunteering. With a parish as large and vibrant as NAM, the possibilities are nearly endless, allowing many opportunities on different days of the week and times. Volunteering is a great way to become even more engaged in our faith community, by giving of your time and talent.

Q10: Will my child be kicked out if I don't meet the requirements?

No, a child will not be 'kicked out' based on the application; however, the amount of the scholarship may change. For example, if no scholarship application is submitted, no scholarship would be received, and the family would be responsible for paying the full tuition amount of \$4,300.

Q11: Will the requirements or scholarship amount change each year?

The intent is to keep the requirements the same each year; however, we plan to have annual review of the FSS Program to make improvements over time.

The amount of the scholarship will be evaluated annually to be sure it is sustainable and meets diocese requirements. This year, the tuition (after receiving the FSS scholarship) was set to the Dioceses Minimum Tuition level.

2020 was the first year for the Kateri Scholarship. The scholarship amount is 50% of the amount that is provided by the Good Shepard Scholarship for grade school families below the 225% Poverty Level. In 2021-2022, the NAM Kateri Scholarship would be \$800 (50% of \$1,600).

Q12: Several of the criteria are self-reported, how is this being evaluated or monitored?

Some of the criteria (such as Dynamic Catholic, and Tithing) can be verified through parish records. For other criteria (such as Prayer and Mass attendance), we are using the honor system. Another goal is to find a better way to coordinate and track volunteer opportunities within the parish and school.

Q13: How will the families be held accountable to their pledges?

The goal of the FFS Program is to help families grow in stewardship, and fulfillment of pledges is expected. If it is found that families are not putting in a good faith effort into their pledge or are not fulfilling their pledges, individual meetings will be set up with either the Pastor or the FSS committee to discuss.

Special Cases

Q14: Is there a way to get a waiver on requirements due to special circumstances?

It is recognized that special circumstances may exist. The application form has a box to check if you would like to meet to discuss your specific situation.

Q15: Who will I meet with to discuss my special circumstances?

Families will need to request a meeting to discuss special circumstances. It is intended to have the FSS Committee members assist with these meetings. The meeting could be held with just the Pastor, with just FSS committee members, or a combination of both the Pastor and an FSS committee member. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may depend on the number of meetings requested and time frame to complete the meetings.

Q16: How will the scholarship be different for parishioners versus non-parishioners?

Non-Parishioners will continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with the Pastor. If the school is at capacity for any grades, NAM parishioners will be given preference.

Other

Q17: Why is there no longer a discount for the third student?

This was decided for simplicity, and to more clearly comply with the new Lincoln Diocese Tuition Policy.

Q18: If I have three students, is my fourth student free?

If a family has more than 3 students, they are eligible to apply for a scholarship through the Lincoln Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship, and can receive \$1,600 in scholarship. In addition, the family would be eligible to receive a Kateri Scholarship the remainder of the NAM tuition above.

Q19: Do I still need to apply to the Lincoln Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship?

The Lincoln Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship and NAM Kateri and NAM Faithful Steward Scholarship are entirely separate but are intended to complement each other. The application process for the Good Shepherd Scholarship and the Kateri Scholarship are both income-based and are both applied through FACTS (require tax documents). It is strongly recommended that you apply for the Lincoln Diocese Good Shepherd Scholarship if your family meets either one of the following conditions:

- Have four or more children in Lincoln Catholic Schools K-12, or
- Family income level within the 225% Federal Poverty Guidelines

The application is done online at: www.goodshepherdscholarship.com.

The FFS will also be applied through FACTS, but the requirement for tax document will be waived if a family is only applying for FSS. The application deadline for all three scholarships is March 31 each year.