

The Answers To All Your Questions . . . Gift Card – Gift Certificate Programs

There is big money to be earned by parents and parishioners through use of the Gift Card – Gift Certificate Programs at St. Peter's. And there are big questions sometimes on how to purchase gift cards/certificates, how to use them, how to earn credit for them, etc. Hopefully this Q/A will answer most, if not all, of your questions. And, if not, please call the Parish Center at 419-524-2572 to be connected to the person who can answer any unanswered questions you have after reading this article!

What Gift Card – Gift Certificate Programs do we have at St. Peter's?

Presently, there are Kroger, MCS Scrip, Lands' End, and Meijer Community Rewards gift card/certificate programs.

How does the Kroger gift card program work?

Kroger rechargeable gift cards for an initial amount of \$5.00 are available every Thursday before and after school in the Parish Center Office as well as every weekday in the 4th floor Tuition Office. To gain maximum tuition credit (5% of the recharge total) using the Kroger program, it is best to purchase them here at St. Peter's rather than through the MCS Scrip Program where the percentage earned is less. Once purchased here at St. Peter's for the initial amount of \$5, the user may recharge and use the card at any Kroger store, local or out of town, for any amount they desire, continuing to earn 5% tuition credit for the following school year of the total recharged each time.

How do I designate the person who is to receive tuition credit when I purchase my first Kroger gift card? When you purchase your first card, you designate the St. Peter's School family (yours or another) you want to receive tuition credit for the following school year. Or you can designate the Annual Tuition Drive as the recipient. In either case, the tuition credit of 5% of your total recharged on the card each time is donated to the designee of your choice

If I want to continue using the gift cards/certificates to reduce tuition and my children have all graduated, can I designate a family at St. Peter's School to receive my tuition credit or can I designate that it go to the Annual Tuition Drive so it helps a family in need of assistance?

Yes, you can. Simply call the Tuition Clerk to arrange for that to happen for new purchases of gift cards/certificates or rechargeable cards you already use.

When is the tuition credit dollar amount applied to my tuition account or my designee's tuition account?

With the exception of the "college tuition credit" program which must be established by a parent at the Mansfield Christian School Scrip office, all tuition credit earned through the Kroger, MCS Scrip, Lands' End, and Meijer Community Rewards programs from June of the present year through May of the next year is applied to the tuition account the following school year.

How does the Meijer Community Rewards program work?

Pick up an application for yourself, your family members, and your friends here at St. Peter's or at any Meijer store. Everyone can also apply online. Tuition credit or donation is a percentage dependent upon the dollar value of monthly purchases made using a Meijer credit card, cash, or a debit card only. Meijer sends St. Peter's a monthly report along with a check for the tuition credits or donations earned. Again, these tuition credits are applied to the following school year.

How does a Lands' End gift card work?

Lands' End gift cards are also available Thursdays before and after school and every weekday in the 4th floor Tuition Office. The tuition credit or donation is 15% of the purchase price and is applied to the following school year. Gift cards can be redeemed by mail order, phone order, fax order or online order. Gift cards can also be redeemed for Lands' End items at Sears.

Can you explain the Mansfield Christian School Scrip Program?

Mansfield Christian School has agreed to allow St. Peter's School parents, teachers and parishioners access to their much larger gift card/certificate program. Order forms are available either at MCS daily or here at St. Peter's every Thursday before and after school in the Parish Center Office as well as every weekday in the 4th floor Tuition Office. (You can view the Scrip vendor list on the St. Peter's website at www.mansfieldstpeters.org. General Information column in "Scrip Program" page or the "Admission/Tuition" page

of either the elementary or high school/jrhi.) The form lists hundreds of businesses—many local and some nationwide—providing the user the opportunity to purchase gift cards/certificates for everyday items like food, clothing, gas, and other essentials. The percentage of tuition credit earned varies with each business.

Take the form to the Mansfield Christian School Scrip office to place your order and to have it filled immediately. Mansfield Christian School reduces the percentages listed on the form by 30% to cover their costs. A quarterly report, along with a check for the tuition credits or donations, is sent to St. Peter's. The amounts are applied to the following school year.

If I want to continue using the gift cards/certificates for tuition credit for my son/daughter attending college, can I do that?

Yes, you can. A new Scrip "college tuition credit" account must be set up by you personally at Mansfield Christian School in their Scrip Program office. You provide them with the name of your son or daughter and the name of the college he/she is attending. Dollar credit earned by purchasing gift cards/certificates through the MCS Scrip Program can be used for college tuition or college-related expenses and can be sent to your son's/daughter's college several times during the same year in which it is earned, at your request to the MCS Scrip office.

When purchasing Scrip gift cards/certificates for a "college tuition credit" account, do I need to visit the MCS Scrip office?

You can obtain the form here at St. Peter's or at MCS but it must be taken by you to the MCS office. They will fill the order immediately.

What if I really don't need tuition credit?

You can still make use of these gift card/certificate programs and donate your dollar credit to the Annual Tuition Drive in order to help families with financial need.

If I have a very young child who is not yet of school age, can I use the gift card/certificate programs now to begin accumulating tuition credit for St. Peter's School?

Yes, you can. Simply open your account here at St. Peter's and accumulate tuition credit for the point in time when you have your first child enrolled at St. Peter's.

How much have families earned in the past few years using these gift card/certificate programs?

Lots! For the school year 2008-09, a total of \$77,789 in tuition credit was earned by St. Peter's school and parish families and for the previous school year 2007-08, a total of \$76,325. All of that was earned by families purchasing dollar-for-dollar gift cards/certificates to use for items they would normally buy anyway. Not a bad deal! Get on board now and start earning tuition credit for your family or a family in need!