

## ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - ATHENS, TN

### PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND RULES

#### MISSION

St. Mary Catholic Church in Athens, Tennessee, believes a successful college education can lead to better employment prospects and can be life changing in scope. The St. Mary Catholic Church Education Scholarship Program provides funding to qualified individuals for secondary education to achieve these life benefits. The students and families who will benefit from this college scholarship will in turn help other needy and vulnerable students and families.

#### COMMITTEE

A three person Scholarship Committee (appointed and approved by the anonymous donor[s] and the Pastor of St. Mary) will be formed to review applications and to vote on scholarship awards. The Pastor of St. Mary Church and the Parish Bookkeeper shall be non-voting Committee Members. The Voting Committee shall elect their Chairperson.

A total of \$60,000 will be awarded each year with a maximum per student of \$10,000 per year. These amounts may increase or decrease as per the available Scholarship Fund. The Committee will review test scores, GPAs, essays, recommendation letters, and overall need to arrive at their award decisions. The Committee's decisions will be final with some applicants receiving scholarship money and some applicants being denied scholarship money.

#### DEADLINES

Applications and all required submissions will be accepted from January 1 to March 31 of each year. The application materials should be submitted to the St. Mary Church office. These applications (along with the rules) can be downloaded from the St. Mary website or picked up at the church office.

The Scholarship Committee will decide on the scholarship awards by May 1 of each year. All applicants will be notified by mail or email with either an acceptance or a rejection notification.

#### GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

This scholarship program is open to any incoming college freshman or returning college student (sophomore, junior or senior in college) from Meigs, McMinn, Polk and Monroe counties.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

##### IF STUDENT IS AN INCOMING FRESHMAN –

- Must achieve an ACT test score of 21 composite score or above (copy required)
- Must sign and submit the appropriate St. Mary Educational Scholarship application by the deadline
- Must sign and submit (along with a parent or guardian) a copy of these Program Guidelines and Rules
- Must provide the latest copy of your high school GPA

- Must submit one (and only one) recommendation letter from a teacher, coach, adult, etc.
- Must submit a 500-700 word essay on the following topic – How Will College Prepare Me For Life?

#### IF STUDENT IS AN EXISTING COLLEGE STUDENT –

- Must have maintained a cumulative 2.75 GPA during his/her college career with an average of 14+ credit hours per semester (official transcript copy required)
- Must sign and submit the appropriate St. Mary Educational Scholarship application by the deadline  
Student must reapply each year.
- Must sign and submit a copy of these Program Guidelines and Rules
- Must submit a 500-700 word essay on the following topic – What Has College Taught Me about the Real World So Far?

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#### IF STUDENT IS A RETURNING APPLICANT-

- Must have maintained a cumulative 2.75 GPA during his/her college career with an average of 14+ credit hours per semester (official transcript copy required)
- Must sign and submit the appropriate St. Mary Educational Scholarship application by the deadline  
Student must reapply each year.
- Must sign and submit a copy of these Program Guidelines and Rules

#### MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES

- All scholarship money awarded will be paid directly to the educational institution. No money will be paid to the student. The awarded money is to be used toward a full year of college expenses. Half of the awarded money will be available each semester.
- St. Mary Scholarship Committee and St. Mary Church can vote at any time to rescind or cancel the awarded scholarship for any reason (examples include but are not limited to arrest, drug use, academic probation, etc).
- The applicant may be asked to interview with the Scholarship Committee if more information/background is required.

TO CONNECT AND INSPIRE

It is recommended that the Committee meets with all beneficiaries of the Education Scholarship Program at the end of every academic year. The families and other stakeholders in education and character molding may be invited too. The intent of such an annual gathering is to connect and inspire each other. It is also an important tool for the Committee and St. Mary Church to hear from the students and families how the program is impacting and empowering them academically, socially, emotionally, spiritually, and responsibly. This avenue, though not its purpose, may inspire other stakeholders to voluntarily expand the existing Scholarship Fund.

SIGNATURES OF APPLICANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN

“I have reviewed and agree to follow the Program Guidelines and Rules of the St. Mary Catholic Church Education Scholarship Program.”

NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

(IF UNDER THE AGE OF 18)