

St. John Neumann Catholic Education Scholarship Fund

St. John Neumann Parish, 11211 Beauchamp Road, Berlin, MD 21811

St. John Neumann parish is very pleased to introduce an opportunity for our youth to receive a Catholic Education through the **Saint John Neumann Catholic Education Scholarship Fund**. This scholarship fund is available to all Parish families who are active members of our church. Its mission is to provide tuition assistance for religious education programs and Catholic schools.

All who are interested must apply by May 1st. Scholarships will be awarded in June based on a combination of need and merit. Our goal is to award as many scholarships as possible to our parish youth, so we strongly encourage you to consider what you can afford and what amount you would require when requesting your desired scholarship amount.

Listed below are general questions and answers regarding the Scholarship Program. If you have additional questions please feel free to contact one of the committee members. We hope and pray the availability of this Scholarship Fund will allow those seeking a Catholic Education to continue or start the journey of learning within our Catholic Faith.

What if I already have a child(ren) in a Catholic school – can I apply?

Your application is welcome if you feel you are unable to keep up with the rising cost of tuition rates or if you need help due to a loss of a job, health issue, etc.

Do you have to be a Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School student?

No – this scholarship has been established to further all forms of Catholic and Religious Education, including Religious Education classes, High School, College, and more.

How is this scholarship awarded? Is it confidential?

A Review Team appointed by the Pastor will conduct the review process. The Team will score and rank the applications and present their findings to the Pastor. All personal information (name, address, etc.) will be marked out to provide for anonymous review and recommendation for the distribution of scholarship funds. All applications will be kept confidential between the Committee Chairs, the Pastor, and school/religious accounting office as appropriate (awards are paid directly to the institution).

Will volunteer service influence the decision of the Review Committee? What type of volunteer work does Saint John Neumann need?

Yes – part of the scholarship is merit based and the Review Committee will take all service into consideration. There are many areas of need at the church, whether it's joining a committee, selling 50/50 raffle tickets or shopping cards, setting up or cleaning up at an event, coordinating activities, collecting recycling, etc.; scheduling is flexible.

How do I apply for the SJN Catholic Education Scholarship? What's the due date?

*Applications can be downloaded from the website at www.stjohnneumannrcc.com or picked up in the Parish Office. They are to be filled out completely and returned to the office in a sealed envelope marked "Application for St. John Neumann Scholarship Fund". **The deadline for applications is May 1st for the following school year.***

Are there other sources of tuition funding available?

Yes, there are many. Here are just two: the Diocese of Wilmington conducts the "Share in the Spirit" tuition Assistance program. If you currently have children enrolled in a Catholic school, the school will send a notice home when application packets with complete instructions are available. If your children are new to a school, application packets will be available at registration. The Knights of Columbus organizations offer scholarships to pursue a Catholic education. Visit www.kofc-md.org for statewide scholarship information or contact the Ocean City Council at www.koc9053.org.

St. John Neumann Catholic Education Scholarship Fund Application Form

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Applicant's Name:				
REQUESTED FUNDING				
<i>Our goal is to award as many scholarships as possible to our parish youth, so we strongly encourage you to consider what you can afford and what amount you would require when requesting your desired scholarship amount.</i>				
What specific dollar amount are you requesting this year from the St. John Neumann Catholic Education Scholarship Fund and, if for multiple children, how much for each child?				
Total Request: \$	Child 1: \$	Child 2: \$	Child 3: \$	Child 4: \$ <i>(continue on back if more than 4)</i>
Have you applied and/or received other scholarship funds? If yes, how much and from whom? If no, please explain.				
Have you received this scholarship previously?				
<input type="checkbox"/> No – Please continue to Attachments Part A <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Please continue to Attachments Part B				
✓	ATTACHMENTS (Part A – New Applicants only)			
	QUESTION 1: In 300 words or less, explain why Catholic education is important to your child(ren); include family background, student achievements, etc.			
	QUESTION 2: In 300 words or less, specifically describe your financial needs such that you are applying for this award, ie. specific estimate of income loss/reduction, loss of job/home, health problems, etc., and if issues are temporary or will continue indefinitely.			
	LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Attach TWO letters of recommendation from non-related individuals, ie. instructor, volunteer coordinator, employer, etc.			
<i>NOTE: Questions 1 and 2 must be answered separately. Checkmark if attachment is completed and attached; if not, provide explanation.</i>				
✓	ATTACHMENTS (Part B – Applicants previously awarded this scholarship only)			
	QUESTION 1: In 300 words or less, explain how your child(ren)'s Catholic education experience last year enhanced your family's growth.			
	QUESTION 2: In 300 words or less, provide an update on your financial status from the past year to convey current need with specific estimate of income loss/reduction, loss of job/home, health problems, etc., and if issues are temporary or will continue indefinitely.			
	QUESTION 3: In 100 words or less, describe how you contribute to parish life, ministry and avenues of income for scholarship funding, ie. shopping cards, recycling cans, special collections, fundraising events, etc.			
	LETTER OF VERIFICATION: Attach a letter of verification from a parish leader, minister or committee member who can attest to your participation in the life, ministry and mission of our parish over the past year.			
<i>NOTE: Questions 1 and 2 must be answered separately. Checkmark if attachment is completed and attached; if not, provide explanation.</i>				
SIGNATURE				
<i>I attest that all information on this application is true and authorize its use to evaluate this application. I understand that the school principal or religious education coordinator may be contacted, and all application information will remain confidential.</i>				
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:			DATE:	

The application must be completed in full and all attachments included to qualify for the scholarship. The review process begins immediately following the May 1st deadline. Applications that are incomplete or submitted past the deadline may result in not being funded or provided a reduced award as funding allotment may already have been distributed.

Return application and attachments to the Parish Office by May 1st in a sealed envelope marked "Application for St. John Neumann Scholarship Fund"