

**SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 14129
MERIT SCHOLARSHIP for 2026**

DIRECTIONS TO APPLY AND INFORMATION SHEET

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 13, 2026

The Saint Mary's Knights of Columbus Council is proud to offer the Saint Mary's Knights of Columbus Council Merit Scholarship. The Saint Mary's Knights of Columbus Council 14129 annually awards one \$1,000 Merit Scholarship to a qualified twelfth grade male student and one \$1,000 Merit Scholarship to a qualified twelfth grade female student.

All qualified students are invited to apply, and the award will be granted by the Saint Mary's Council Scholarship Board, which consists of the current Grand Knight of Council 14129 and members of the Council appointed by the Grand Knight. The scholarship will be paid to the Institution of Choice in the name and on behalf of the Winner.

The prospective scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. The student has completed Confirmation
2. The scholarship applicants parent(s) or guardian(s) is/are registered member(s) of Saint Mary's Catholic Church (*Any eighth through twelfth student whose parent(s) or guardian(s) is/are registered member(s) of any Virginia parish may apply for Outstanding Young Man/Woman of The Year*)
3. The student completes a Saint Mary's Church Knights of Columbus Council 14129 Merit Scholarship application
4. The student plans to attend college or vocational education in the school year following the students' graduating year, and submits an acceptance letter for a college or vocational program once it is received (*which may be after the January 31 deadline*)
5. The student submits an essay between 200-250 words (typed, double spaced) discussing "*How my Faith has prepared me for life after high school.*" *Only the top of the first page will contain the scholarship applicant's name and the content will not mention any family names as this essay will be read and evaluated objectively by the scholarship board anonymously. (Please do not include any personally identifying information in the essay).*
6. Utilizing the Outstanding Young Man/Woman of the year application form, the student lists the various voluntary services in which he/she performed and/or participated at our church or in the local community
7. The student provides recommendations from a church leader and a High School administrator (teacher, principal, coach, etc.)

The application and supporting material must be received no later than February 13, 2026 for scholarship consideration for the fall semester of 2026, so be sure to mail them early and keep proof of postmark. In fairness to all, no late application and supporting material will be accepted for consideration. These items must be mailed via first class mail.

Winners of a scholarship will be honored at a Luncheon at a TBD date and time at St. Mary's. All winners and their families are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Scholarship Chairman, Gerry Alderman, glapfa@verizon.net - please use the identifier K of C 14129 Scholarship in the Subject line.

The completed application and supporting documents are to be mailed via first class mail to:
St Mary's Catholic Church
c/o Knights of Columbus Council 14129 - Scholarship Committee
9505 Gayton Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229