



# HOLY CROSS

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
2438 S. Alston Avenue  
Durham, NC 27713  
919-957-2900

Email Completed application to  
[scholarships@holycrossdurham.org](mailto:scholarships@holycrossdurham.org)

Applications Must Be  
Returned by Monday, June 1, 2026, not later  
than 1:00 p.m.



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 2026  
TO: Holy Cross Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship Applicants  
FROM: Fr. Pius Wekesa, Pastor, Holy Cross Catholic Church  
SUBJECT: Guidelines for Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship Applicants

The Scholarship Committee and the Parish Council approved the following guidelines, unanimously, for all Holy Cross Scholarship applicants. The total amount of funds made available each year to the recipient of the Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship is a one-time grant of \$1,000. The Mildred Walker Pinkard Endowment gives this Scholarship.

The Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship is intended for graduating high school students who have established themselves as active members of Holy Cross Parish. An active member is defined as a young person who is known in the Parish and who has participated in one or more church activities, including but not limited to Faith Formation, High School of Religion, Altar Server, Choir Member, Usher, or Lector.

The criteria for receiving a Mildred Walker Pinkard Holy Cross Scholarship are:

1. Admission into a degree-granting program at an accredited Historically Black College or University (HBCU) with an enclosed letter of acceptance.
2. A high school GPA of 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) as determined by an official high school transcript enclosed with the application.
3. Completion of the enclosed application and submission of an essay.
4. Feedback to the Pinkard family yearly on your ongoing academic progress until graduation.



Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship 2026  
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**As a high school senior, you are eligible to receive both the Holy Cross Scholarship and the Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship in the same year.**

Note: The Holy Cross Scholarship and the Mildred Walker Pinkard awards will be announced in June. The rewards will be dispersed in July.

Student Check List (Attachments to Application)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the attached application
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Essay
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Notification letter of acceptance from HBCU college/university selected.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Essay, Part C

*\*Letters of appreciation after receipt of any of the Scholarships and book stipends are encouraged and should be written to the individual grantee sources.*

Dr. Alfred Anthony Pinkard  
3201 Lenox Rd.  
Atlanta, GA,  
30324

Ms. Clarice Pinkard  
5320 Baker Mill Rd  
Durham, NC  
27707

The Graham Family  
c/o Alicia Graham  
304 Hidden Springs Dr.  
Durham, NC 27703-4921

## Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship 2026

## Holy Cross Catholic Church



The Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship was established in 2003 by the Pinkard family in memory of Mrs. Mildred Pinkard, a former Holy Cross parishioner. The purpose is to provide financial support to a high school senior who is a member of Holy Cross Church who enrolls in a degree-granting program at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). The one-time \$1000.00 scholarship is merit-based and will be awarded to one student who has demonstrated outstanding high school academic performance. All responses must be typed or printed. You may apply for the Holy Cross Scholarship and the Mildred Walker Pinkard Scholarship in the same year. All scholarship applications must be received by 1:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2026.

## Requirements:

1. Admission into a degree-granting program at an accredited HBCU with enclosed letter of acceptance.
2. A high school GPA of 3.2 or above (on a 4.0 scale).
3. Completion of this application and submission of essay.
4. Feedback to the Pinkard family in the future of your ongoing academic progress.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Attending Pending \_\_\_\_\_

Declared Major: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, specify \_\_\_\_\_



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Part A. Education and Achievements

1. Check the Grade Point Average (GPA) that represents your current academic status. High School

Average:     \_\_\_ 100-95 \_\_\_ 94-89 \_\_\_ 88-83 \_\_\_ 82-77

2. Check your collegiate classification as of the upcoming school year:

Freshman\_\_\_ Sophomore\_\_\_ Junior\_\_\_ Senior\_\_\_

3. List your high school academic awards and academic honors; be specific.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_ e. \_\_\_\_\_ f. \_\_\_\_\_

Attach additional sheet if needed.

4. List your Holy Cross Church and community activities.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_ e. \_\_\_\_\_ f. \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: Essay

*The Holy Cross Scholarship Committee is aware of the increased reliance on AI in academics, so we encourage you to be truthful, creative, and original. Evidence of AI interference will affect the Committee's evaluation of your application. On a separate sheet, prepare a typed personal statement on the following topic:*

Imagine this:

You arrive on the campus of the HBCU of your choice, settle into the dormitory, and register for your classes.

The semester begins. In your essay, write about the journey you expect to have.

Your essay should be clear, precise, and concise, and a minimum of one double-spaced, fully typed page in length. It must be signed and attached to the application. Please read the cover letter from Fr. Pius Wekesa that includes the student checklist and other documents that must accompany the application.

Scholarship Applicant's Signature

Date Submitted

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