

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

Each year, the *Annual Catholic Appeal* (ACA) brings Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis together to share God's love. In an effort to share the good news about the *Appeal's* impact in our community and to promote the involvement of our young people in the life of the local Church, Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski and the ACA Council invite high school juniors who attend a Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of St. Louis to participate in the *Annual Catholic Appeal* essay contest. Scholarships are awarded for the student's senior year with \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second, and \$750 for third.

ESSAY OBJECTIVES

The prompt for the essay contest is, "What would I say to someone who asked me, *"Why should I give to the Annual Catholic Appeal?"*"

Participants may want to address some of the following themes in their answer:

- What is the impact of the *Appeal* in my community and across the Archdiocese of St. Louis?
- How does the *Appeal* affect the unity of the local Church?
- What ministries supported by the *Annual Catholic Appeal* seem most important, and why?
- How has a ministry impacted my life or the life of someone I know?

Faculty at participating schools will judge essays according to how the participant addresses the above questions. Essays should be limited to 3-5 typed and double-spaced pages. The heading on the first page of the essay must list the following: student name and title (e.g., Mr. or Miss), name of school, home address, city, state, zip, phone number, email address, and parish (if applicable).

RESEARCH RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- The most recent *Annual Catholic Appeal* video and brochure.
 - This information is available in the Leadership and Volunteer Resources section of the ACA website at archstl.org/aca. Additional information can be found on the microsite aca.archstl.org.
 - If you would prefer a DVD and/or hard copy brochures, please contact the ACA office.
- The ACA website has a complete listing of [supported ministries](#). These ministries would be happy to talk to participating students about their mission.
- The *St. Louis Review* and *Catholic St. Louis Magazine* often have articles about the *Appeal*.



If you would like more information about the *Annual Catholic Appeal*, please contact the ACA office at 314.792.7680 or acaoffice@archstl.org.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The faculty at participating schools are responsible for reviewing the essays, selecting the top three, and ranking them in the order of first, second, and third place.

The school is asked to submit the top three essays ELECTRONICALLY (PDF preferred) to Laura Fisher at laurafisher@archstl.org no later than October 16, 2026. Only essays submitted by the deadline and meeting all contest requirements are eligible for scholarships.

A letter from Archbishop Rozanski will be mailed to the winners from each school, notifying them of their scholarship and inviting them to an award ceremony and photo session. Winning students will be asked to contact the *Annual Catholic Appeal* Office at 314.792.7680 or acaoffice@archstl.org to confirm their attendance at the event and provide the first and last name of each member of their family attending. Members of the school administration and faculty are also welcome to attend.

AWARD CEREMONY

Archbishop Rozanski will present award certificates at a ceremony and photo session on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**. Scholarships are awarded for the student's senior year and funds will be sent directly to the school in July 2027.

- The award ceremony and photo session will take place in the Fleur de Lis Room of the [Cardinal Rigali Center](#) on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 3:30 PM.
- At this event, students will receive an Award Certificate and take part in a photo session with Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski. Students should plan to wear their school uniform or other appropriate attire.
- A group photo of the essay winners with Archbishop Rozanski is published in the *St. Louis Review*. Students' parent/guardian must sign the below linked Media Authorization Release Form prior to the event. This form may be completed in advance and emailed to acaoffice@archstl.org
- [Media Authorization Release Form link](#)
- Parents/Guardians may take photos, and there will be an opportunity to order professional photos as well.
- **Scholarships for 2027-28 school year will be sent directly to your school in July 2027.**