



**Cathedral Council of Catholic Women  
Fr. Augustine Tolton Council 16126**



**2026-2027  
Scholarship Application**

Thank you for applying for a CCCW/Knights of Columbus Scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year. These scholarships are used to offset the tuition costs at a Catholic high school. Please note that all completed scholarship applications (including application form, service hours verification, essay, and teacher evaluations) must be submitted to the Cathedral rectory by **11:59 PM on Thursday, April 30, 2026**.

All applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, which includes independent members of the CCCW and Fr. Tolton Council 16126. Scoring will be determined based on strengths of the application in reported and verified service hours, a one-page essay on the topic indicated, and independent teacher evaluations.

**Service hours:** A minimum of 20 service hours must be verified and reported as part of the application. Of those 20 service hours, a minimum of 15 hours must be completed in service to the Cathedral parish or Cathedral parish organizations. These hours may include, but are not limited to, assisting at parish Sunday masses (reader, usher, greeter, extraordinary minister of holy communion, altar service); set up/greeting/takedown at Cathedral Music Series events (First Friday/Saturday Concerts); assisting at the K of C Tootsie Roll Drive; set up/takedown at CCCW Bake Sale or other CCCW events; and other similar or related activities.

Diocesan liturgical events that are hosted at the Cathedral, such as Ordinations, Confirmation and First Communion Masses, or other diocesan events may be included toward the 15-hour requirement of service to the parish.

Non-parish service hours may include, but are not limited to, assisting at St. John's Breadline; assisting at Catholic Charities events; assistance to elderly or disabled persons in yard maintenance (e.g., shoveling snow from walkways and driveways); mentor/tutor younger disadvantaged students, etc.

**Essay:** There are two essay topics: one for incoming freshmen (i.e., eighth graders that will be entering ninth grade in the 2026-27 academic year) and a different topic for students that will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the 2026-27 academic year. The essay should be concise and clear, and approximately one page in length (250-300 words). Please note: the use of artificial intelligence (AI), such as Chat GPT or similar programs, is forbidden; in addition, if you use citations from different sources, be sure to note these citations to avoid plagiarizing. If you applied in previous years, be sure to submit a completely new and updated essay, as the Committee will compare the current essay to prior year essays for originality.

**Teacher Evaluation:** Please have one of your teachers complete the Evaluation Form and return it to the Cathedral. Teachers may wish to send the form separately.

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

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Applicant Name (Last, First, Middle)

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Preferred Name or Nickname

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Home Address (Street Number and Name, Apartment Number, City, State, ZIP Code)

Please mark your class status for the 2026-27 academic year:

                      
Freshman

                      
Sophomore

                      
Junior

                      
Senior

**ESSAY TOPIC**

Please write a one-page essay (250-300 words) on the appropriate topic for your academic classification in the 2026-27 school year.

Freshman (Eighth Grade going into Ninth Grade):  
*How has your faith prepared you for your beginning this new phase in continuing your education (going from elementary school to high school)?*

Sophomore and Above:  
*How has your Catholic education prepared you socially, spiritually, and emotionally for your life in the future?*

**SERVICE HOURS**

Please attach documentation for the minimum 20 service hours (of which at least 15 hours must be for Cathedral parish or organization events).



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**TEACHER EVALUATION**

Thank you for agreeing to provide an evaluation for the student named below, who is applying for a CCCW/Knights of Columbus parish scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year. Please complete the form below and rate the student on the characteristics listed. The rating scale is from 1 (Needs Improvement) to 5 (Excellent). You may also provide additional information regarding your rating or to supplement your rating. If your rating is either “Needs Improvement” or “Excellent”, please provide additional information as to why the particular rating was selected.

Once completed, please return this form on or before **April 30, 2026**, to:

CCCW/K of C Scholarship Committee  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
524 East Lawrence Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

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Student Name [First and Last Name] (Required)

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Teacher Name [First and Last Name] (Required)

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School Name

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Title/Teaching Subject/Department

**CATEGORIES**

**SHOWS INITIATIVE**

Needs Improvement    Below Average    Average    Above Average    Excellent

Additional Comments

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**RESPECTFUL TO SELF AND OTHERS**

Needs Improvement    Below Average    Average    Above Average    Excellent

Additional Comments

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**ABILITY TO INTERACT WITH PEERS/OTHERS**

Needs Improvement    Below Average    Average    Above Average    Excellent

Additional Comments

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**LEADERSHIP**

Needs Improvement    Below Average    Average    Above Average    Excellent

Additional Comments

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**GENERAL WORK ETHIC**

Needs Improvement    Below Average    Average    Above Average    Excellent

Additional Comments

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**ATTENDANCE**

Needs Improvement    Below Average    Average    Above Average    Excellent

Additional Comments

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**PREPAREDNESS**

Needs Improvement    Below Average    Average    Above Average    Excellent

Additional Comments

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Please include any final thoughts and comments below:

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On behalf of the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) and the Father Augustine Tolton Council 16126, Knights of Columbus, we thank you again for your support of this student and of Catholic secondary education in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. May God bless you and yours!

Please return the completed evaluation to the Committee on or before **April 30, 2026**.

CCCW/K of C Scholarship Committee  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
524 East Lawrence Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

