

ST. LEO'S PARISH SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: January 31, 2026

St. Leo's Parish will award *Three (3)* scholarships of **\$1,000.00** each to *Three (3)* high school seniors, who are registered members of St. Leo's Parish, who will be graduating from high school in 2026 and who will be attending a post-secondary educational institution within a year.

This scholarship is designed to recognize seniors who have made a significant contribution to St. Leo's Parish, their community, and their school. The scholarships will be awarded at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1. **Application form** - Complete the **application form**. Application forms are for office use only and do not have to be typed but must be printed legible
2. **Personal statement** - Submit a typed **personal statement**, between 500 and 800 words that includes:
 - a) detailed information about your involvement, contribution and experiences in Church activities at St. Leo's Church - This includes but is not limited to involvement in: 1) laity or volunteer service during Mass, church activities and events; 2) St. Leo's youth activities and group programs; 3) retreats or conferences sponsored by St. Leo's or the Grand Island Diocese; 5) service or mission trips
 - b) How these activities impacted your faith journey
 - c) **In addition, your statement needs to include your future plans, such as colleges you are considering to attend and majors or career paths you are considering.**
3. **Resume** - Please attach a **personal resume** to include but is not limited to: extracurricular activities; employment if applicable; church, community and school activities; church, community or school awards or certificates. On your resume, list the activity you participated in followed by the grades you were in when you did those activities.
For Example:
Altar server – 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Empower Youth – 9, 10
Big Brothers, Big Sisters – 11, 12
Band, 9, 10, 11
(This will indicate to the scholarship committee the activity you were in and what grade you were)
4. **Recommendation letters** - Applicants are to request recommendation letters from **three (3)** people. The recommendations are to be written by **one person each from; a) St. Leo's parish, b) the school you attend, and c) a person in the community you reside in.** Applicants are to ensure that their recommendation letters are postmarked or received by the St. Leo's Church office by January 31, 2026.
* **Take note**-the instructions for your references are specific. Please give your reference the attached recommendation instruction form.

Return the completed scholarship package to the St. Leo's parish office on or before Jan. 31, 2026.

Applications submitted by mail must be postmarked on or before Jan. 31, 2026. Applications received or postmarked after Jan. 31, 2026 will not be considered for scholarships.

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Scholarship Selection Procedure and Criteria:

1. Applications received by St. Leo's Parish Community will have the date of receipt stamped or written on application by a parish staff member or representative
2. Applications will be assigned a number by a parish staff member or representative
3. The application page will be removed and any reference to the identity of applicant removed from the essay, resume and recommendation letters. A parish staff member or representative will make 3 copies of each numbered application for the Scholarship Selection Committee members.
4. A St. Leo's staff member will mail or personally deliver copies to each of the scholarship selection committee members.
 - a) Scholarship Selection Committee will consist of three volunteer parishioners from St. Leo's church.
 - b) Scholarship Selection Committee will consist of both male and female members.
 - c) Scholarship Selection Committee will represent the diversity of the high schools in the Grand Island area. Thus, Scholarship Committee members will be affiliated with different high schools in the Grand Island area.
 - d) The following criteria will be used to determine scholarship recipients:

1)	Typed personal statement	10 points
2)	Recommendation letters:	15 points (5 ea.)
3)	Applicant participation and contribution in (as described in their personal statement, resume and their recommendation letters):	
	a) Church involvement	45 points
	b) Community involvement	15 points
	c) School involvement	<u>10 points</u>
		70 points available for participation
4)	Academic progress	5 points

	Total points available	100 points

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APPLICATION FORM

(Type or print legibly - office use only)

Name _____
(Last) (First)

Home Address _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Names and phone numbers of three people who are writing recommendations for you:

1. Church - _____
2. Community - _____
3. School - _____

By signing this application, applicant acknowledges that all information contained in the application form, resume, personal statement and recommendation letters is true to the best of their knowledge. If evidence becomes available that contradicts the information in this application, St. Leo's Church reserves the right to disqualify the applicant from scholarship consideration.

Applicant signature

To be returned by January 31, 2026

Please submit completed scholarship package, containing all of the following:

- Application form
- Resume, typed
- Personal statement, typed
- Three recommendation letters

Return to:

St. Leo's Parish Community
Attn. Scholarship Committee
2410 S. Blaine St.
Grand Island, NE 68801

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Deadline: January 31, 2026

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ST. LEO'S PARISH SCHOLARSHIP

Applicants, please give this recommendation instruction form to each person completing your recommendation letters.

Name of applicant requesting letter of recommendation: _____

To the reference:

A candidate for the St. Leo's Parish Scholarship has requested a recommendation letter from you. The purpose of the recommendation letter is to help the scholarship committee select suitable recipients for the St. Leo's Parish Scholarships. Potential recipients are ranked according to involvement and contributions in:

- a) Church activities and events
- b) Community activities
- c) School activities.

- Please state your *personal* knowledge and experience of the applicant's involvement and contribution in one or more of the above areas.
- **The applicant will be submitting a resume listing the activities they are involved in. To best assist the scholarship committee, please do not comment on the applicant's resume activities unless you have personal experience of a specific activity.** For example, a band teacher commenting on an applicant's involvement and character during band events would be appropriate.
- Please also include in your letter, statements regarding your *personal* knowledge and experience of the applicant's character.
- Please use examples to help explain your evaluation of this applicant.
- Recommendation letters may be typed or hand written legibly.

Please return the signed recommendation letter in a sealed and signed envelope to the scholarship applicant or mail **by January 31, 2026** to:

St. Leo's Parish Community
Scholarship Committee
2410 S. Blaine St.
Grand Island, NE. 68801

Thank you for supporting this applicant.

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