



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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JOHN PITSAVAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

NAME OF PARENTS: _____

SCHOOL/GRADE, OR COLLEGE YOU ARE ATTENDING:

CHURCH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

2025 ESSAY TOPIC

Question: In John 15, Jesus speaks of the world's hatred toward His followers, while in 1 Peter 3:15 St. Peter encourages believers to defend their faith amidst hostility, and in 2 Thessalonians 2:15 St. Paul writes "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught ..."

Analyze these passages in the context of a secular world that is indifferent or antagonistic toward Christianity. Share how your faith has been questioned in the past or may be questioned in the future. How you can respond "with meekness and fear." And discuss why keeping the Traditions the Apostles laid down and the Fathers kept is important to articulating the Orthodox faith in your answering the call to "Always be ready".

HOW TO SUBMIT: The deadline for submitting essays electronically (emailed to office@stgeorgegoc.org) or by mail is **Wednesday, July 30th** (See reverse for eligibility information).

DATE OF SUBMISSION: _____

Details: The winner will receive the \$1,000 Pitsavas scholarship, made possible by the generosity of the Pitsavas family. 2025 high school graduates and current college students of active St. George families are eligible to apply unless they have previously received the scholarship (this does not apply to the previous Missions & Benevolence scholarships/prior 2nd or 3rd place essays). Students may be at any stage of their undergraduate journey. Contact the church office for more details at office@stgeorgegoc.org. The winner will be announced on **August 10th, 2025**.



Directions & Suggestions for Writing Your Essay

Mrs. Theologia Pitsavas and the review committee hope that writing this essay will help you articulate your beliefs and examine your spiritual journey and that this will encourage you in the future.

Your essay must be college-worthy in content as well as format. Spend enough time on this!

FORMAT: Your paper should be at least 1000 words in length (4-5 pages).

Use 12-point *Times New Roman* or a similarly-sized font and double space or space-and-a-half the lines.

CONTENT:

1. **Keep the topic in mind** as you develop your paper.
Focus on concrete examples from Orthodox writers, the Bible, and the Church Services as well as from your own experience.
2. Be sure to **cite your sources** (author, article or book, publishing information, and page number) for the outside information that you use. (Any of the committee members can advise you.)
3. To best express your ideas, pay attention to the **structure** of your essay.
 - a. Have **an introduction**, one or two paragraphs, with your **thesis statement** at the end of it.
(To make a thesis statement, turn the question, into a statement or sentence and add the aspects or the areas of the topic that you will be writing about.)
 - b. Each **body** paragraph needs a **topic sentence** that directs or organizes the ideas in the paragraph. This sentence is related to your thesis and specifies the focus (the aspect or area) of the topic you will discuss and in the paragraph.
 - c. The **conclusion** restates the question you are answering and briefly summarizes your thesis.
4. Before turning your essay in, **check it** for correctness in vocabulary, sentences, and grammar.

Have you answered the question? Thank you for participating!

Carol Alexis, Lisa Jordan, Ray Murillo

JOHN PITSAVAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The John Pitsavas Memorial Scholarship is set up to provide the children of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, assistance in their pursuit of education by providing them an opportunity to share and express their Orthodox Christian faith through a written essay. In addition, the Scholarship is meant to motivate active participation in the youth programs and parish life of St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

II. RULES OF QUALIFICATION

Grants are available only to children affiliated with the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, provided that the children are attending church and participating in its activities. Eligibility applies to students who have graduated twelfth grade, or those attending a vocational school or an academic institution of higher education seeking to obtain a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent.