

The Father Michael G. Simon Scholarship

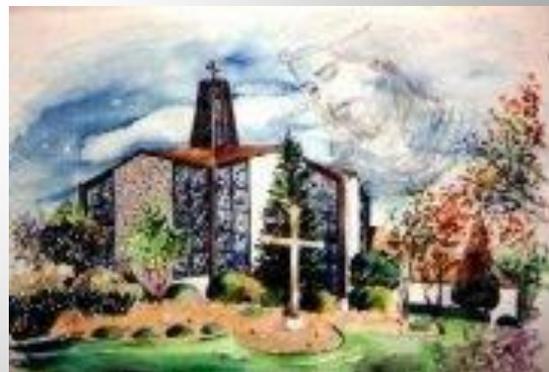


This scholarship was originally funded by donations in memory of the late Very Reverend Father Michael G. Simon. Memory Eternal! This scholarship is currently being funded by the Parish Council of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church.

**St. George Antiochian
Orthodox Church**

**237 Long Hill Rd.
Little Falls, NJ 07424**

973-256-4942



Father Michael G. Simon Stewardship Scholarship – Rules & Application

This application is 5 pages long (not including the cover sheet). Please read every page carefully and follow all the directions. It includes essay instructions and an application form. If you still have questions, you may e-mail scholarship@stgeorgenj.com (write “Church Scholarship” in subject box) no later than April 17th.

The Parish Council:

The Parish Council exists to promote Christian stewardship, not as a temporary program to meet our Church’s immediate financial needs, but rather as an ongoing way of applying our faith to everyday life experiences. Stewardship is an important part of the Christian life. Christ, in His love for mankind, has given us everything we have; we, in turn, should give back to Him. If we help even the least of our brethren, we are giving to Christ. (Mat. 25:31-46) We can give back through works of charity; loving our neighbors (Luke 10:27); contributing our time, talents, and treasure to the church; prayer; fasting; and many other Christian acts.

The St. George Parish Council, through this scholarship, wishes to promote the importance of stewardship in our church community. The original funds for the scholarship were donated by parishioners of our church in memory of one of our beloved priests, the Very Reverend Father Michael Simon, who was the pastor of St. George’s Church from 1947 to 1981.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be a senior in high school.
- Applicant must be entering a 2 or 4-year College in the Fall of 2015.
- Parents must be dues paying members in good standing of St. George Church in Little Falls
- Applicant must submit:
 - The application (**2** copies - typed);
 - The essay (**2** copies - typed) ;
 - One official high school transcript.

Official Transcript should be handed directly to Scholarship Committee Chairperson or mailed to:

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Father Michael G. Simon Scholarship Committee
237 Long Hill Rd.
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Scholarship Award:

The Parish Council will offer either one **\$1000** or two **\$500 scholarships** to the individual(s) who best exemplifies stewardship (40%), has earned high grades (30%), and, without assistance, writes an outstanding essay in response to the prompt below (30%). The applicants’ GPA and SAT score will be taken into account; however, the content of the essay and the applicant’s church involvement including local SOYO activities, participation in the regional Creative Festivals and/or Bible Bowl, Oratorical competition; community service; and extra-curricular school activities will hold more total weight in the rubric.

None of the 3 judges will be members of St. George's Church or relatives/friends of the applicants. The judges will be given a specific rubric to determine each applicant's merits for this award. At no point will they be given the names of the applicants.

Deadline for Father Michael Simon Scholarship:

The scholarship will be made available for download during the second week of March. In order to download the scholarship, go to the St. George website to find a full application with directions and deadlines. Hard copies of the scholarship will be made available in the church office as well. All applications and transcripts must be submitted to the St. George Church Office **no later than Friday, April 17, 2015**. Applications that are missing information will not be taken into consideration. You will be notified by mid-May if you have been awarded the scholarship. You will be presented with the scholarship on or before Sunday, June 1, 2015 in church after Divine Liturgy.

Essay:

1. Background Information:

Think about the following words of St. Paul to the Corinthians: *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. ~1 Corinthians 12:12-14*

Being a member of Christ's Church is a very important part of living the Christian life. In fact, Christ calls us to be one, united body. King David reminds us "how good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity." As the church, we are to image Christ and be a living icon of Him on earth. To be a member of Christ's body, one must truly strive to be a Christian (a little Christ) and put aside his/her own wants and desires. In order to be a loving Church, we must all put aside our individualism and embrace Christ centered community.

Being a member of the Church also means that we must be good stewards; we must allocate some of our time, talent and treasure to the Lord. **Christian stewardship is a way of living in which we recognize that everything belongs to God. All resources must be used for His glory and the common good. Harmony is the fruit of stewardship.**

2. Topic:

With this in mind, select from the New Testament one parable, story, or event that you enjoy and that you consider personally meaningful. Then, in **700-900 words** explain how the parable or event teaches us to be one in Christ.

Consider the following questions in your response. These questions are just a guide. They do not all have to be answered, nor do they have to be included in order presented.

- A. What does Christ tell us about using our time, talent and treasure? How does Christ teach us to serve one another, help our community, help our church, and so forth? What is Christ teaching His disciples, and how can we use these lessons to help promote harmony and stewardship? The parable may not talk about these topics specifically, so be creative. Take the lessons Christ teaches us through the parable or event and use them to explain the importance of stewardship. Incorporate the parable/story into the essay. NOTE: Do not simply copy and paste the parable or story into the essay. Also, do not offer a detailed summary of the parable/story. Do include the book, chapter, and verses the story is found.
- B. Secondly, in the essay describe how you have been a good steward. What have you done to help promote love within your home, church, school and community? How have you donated your time, talent or treasure to the church? How have you felt doing so? How have you displayed the love of Christ within your community or school? How have your actions/lifestyle brought others to Christ?
- C. The length of the second part of the essay must be about equal to or longer than the first part, in which you interpreted the parable in terms of stewardship.

3. Directions:

- First and foremost, **this essay must be your original ideas, your writing, and honest in your description of how you have been a good steward.** Do not seek help from outside sources other than a Bible and dictionary. You may seek help from a parent in choosing a parable, and you may ask for grammatical assistance on your first draft. Take your time, give the topic a considerable amount of thought, and then write from your heart and your knowledge of the Orthodox faith.
- The essay must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font. The pages must be numbered.
- **Do Not Write Your Name on the essay.** Simply, paper-clip the essay to the application and place the application along with the essay into an 8 1/2 x 11" manila envelope.
- Please do not write identifying names of real individuals in your essay. For example, if you wish to refer to your priest, your friend, or town, simply write "my priest" or "my friend" or "my town."

Application for Father Michael G. Simon Scholarship

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Year of Birth: _____

Father's full Name: _____

Mother's full Name: _____

High School from which you will be graduating: _____

High School City/State: _____

High School GPA as of Feb. 2015: _____ Class Rank (if available): _____/_____

Highest SAT Combined Score: _____/2400

Name/Location of College/University you will attend in the Fall & selected Major:

Will you be living in the dormitory or home? _____

Vocational Goal:

II. Honors, Awards (note year of receipt), and Scholarships. (May add separate sheet.) Include honors or awards received during your high school years only, whether through school, extra-curricular activities, or church related programs (i.e. Creative Arts Festival).

III. Church, School, & Civic Activities: Write 3 separate paragraphs - one on each of the following topics: (1) Church – local, regional, national SOYO; non-SOYO church activities (i.e. SS teacher, FOCUS trip); frequency of attendance at Liturgy; Bible Bowl (2) High School- clubs & sports (if title of club is unclear, explain further)., include number of years participated in each and any leadership roles held (3) Community related – volunteer work, such as coaching or mentoring young children, Eagle Scout, organizing charitable activities, and any part-time jobs held. Also, indicate which years you were involved and any leadership positions you held.

IV. Your plans as to how you will continue your involvement in church and stewardship activities while attending college: (May be typed in bullet form.)

***Note: Please attach the essay to this application using a paper-clip. Again, do not write your name on the essay, and number the pages.

Your signature attests to the fact that everything in this application is accurate, and that the essay was planned and composed solely by you.

Your signature _____

Date _____