

Irving T. and Katherine Borris-Hansen Scholarship Fund

Applicant Eligibility and Submission Process

The Irving T. and Katherine Borris Hansen Scholarship is awarded annually, in the fall, to deserving Orthodox Christians. After reviewing the scholarship application and other requirements, eligible students are encouraged to apply. Orthodox students who fit one of categories indicated below should submit an application.

- High school graduate enrolling in a college or university
- High school student enrolling in a vocational or technical school
- Current college or university student
- Current vocational or technical school student
- Graduate or advanced degree (e.g. law or medicine)
- Adult Education (continuing education, professional development)

Your application will be considered in combination with others in your same educational category, and points will be awarded based on merit. Criteria used to evaluate each application include:

- Orthodox Church Membership
- Stewardship
- Desire to learn
- Academic achievement
- Essay responses

Scholarships awarded in 2026 are intended to cover tuition, books, and student fees for the 2026-2027 school year. Previous scholarship awards ranged from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00. All applications **must be mailed and postmarked Monday June 1, 2026**.

****The church office staff will NOT accept completed applications in person.****

You may mail your application, including transcripts to the following address:

Hansen Scholarship
c/o St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral
1701 5th Street NE
Minneapolis MN 55413

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the scholarship committee: Walter Grivna - Chair, Julie Moricz - Secretary, Andrew Hinton, Danielle Jurichko, Jo Anne Korluka, Nina Stenach, or Karen Schwebach.

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Background and History of our Generous Donors

In 1995 an announcement was made to the St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral community that a very substantial testamentary bequest had been given to the Cathedral in the Last Will and Testament of Irving T. Hansen, surviving husband of Katherine Borris-Hansen. The purpose of the bequest was to establish "The Irving T and Katherine Borris-Hansen Scholarship Fund".

Irving and Katherine were married in Mandan, North Dakota, but were not blessed with any children. Katherine's parents were members of St. Mary's. Katherine was baptized into the faith as an infant. Irving was a non-Orthodox at the time of his marriage to Katherine. Shortly after their marriage, Irving was chrismated and received into the Church. Irving often referred to St. Mary's as Katherine's "Russian Church." Through his acceptance of the Orthodox faith and his great generosity to the church, he has made known to all that St. Mary's was also "his" church.

Irving and Katherine loved St. Mary's and were faithful and devout members. They were a quiet couple not inclined to join church organizations or to take an active part in church functions. Although not visibly active, they regularly attended church services, enjoyed the choir and its occasional concerts, shopped the Christmas Fair, and enjoyed other church sponsored activities. They looked forward to and enjoyed fellowship with family and friends at Sunday coffee hours.

Katherine was a high school graduate. She continued with her education by attending business school where she studied bookkeeping and accounting procedures. She worked full-time as a bookkeeper/accountant for various local businesses until her retirement.

Irving was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin to Danish parents. He had seven brothers and sisters. His parents had a small farm in that community where they raised food for the family and farmed some cash crops for market. They also maintained a small dairy herd. Economic times were difficult as Irving was growing up. The family farm was not capable of providing enough food or income to support this large family. At age 15, Irving left school, and the family farm, to begin work as a lumberjack in northern Wisconsin. By this time in his life, he had grown to be a physically strong and powerful young man. Irving enjoyed the hard work logging tress. He commented, "the work was hard, the hours were long, the pay was poor, but the eats were great."

From his experiences on the farm and in the forest, he earned what some might consider to be the equivalent of a doctoral degree in nature and wildlife. Irving loved God's creation and willingly shared his love and knowledge with anyone who showed interest in these areas. If complimented about his vast knowledge, his humble and sometimes gruff response was, "I ain't educated with schooling, but I did learn some 'ting' about life and nature." Irving's love of nature and wildlife is reflected in the generous bequest he made to the National Wildlife Foundation to assist that organization in carrying out its work.

Following his lumberjacking experience, Irving moved to the Twin Cities to seek work in a trade. He found work as an apprentice machinist. He labored in that trade until for the remainder of his working days. At the time of his retirement Irving was a Shop Foreman in charge of 15-20 apprentices and skilled machinists.

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Like their contemporaries, Irving and Katherine realized they must try to save from their meager earnings and start a long-term investment program to enable them to improve their economic status and secure their future. They learned about investing and then entered the stock market with caution, investing very minimal amounts. All profits were reinvested and not used for living expenses. Their plan for investing was becoming successful. Their net worth grew and their financial future became secure, and their scholarship fund has become a reality for St. Mary's.

When Irving and Katherine first established their scholarship fund, they began with a \$50,000 testamentary bequest. After Katherine's death Irving took it upon himself to amend his Will to increase the gift to the fund. In his amended Will, he provided that in addition to the original \$50,000 bequest he and Katherine had made, any funds remaining in his estate after distribution of other testamentary bequests made to relatives, friends and charities would go into the Fund. This most thoughtful and generous decision increased the money available to the fund from \$50,000 to where it now totals nearly \$600,000.

During their life, Irving and Katherine did share some of their reasons for establishing the Fund. There were three categories of individuals they hoped to help. First, Irving, as a blue collar worker and a skilled tradesman, wanted *individuals with similar vocational interests to have the ability to learn the trade, or advance their skills by attending a trade or vocational school* (i.e., Dunwoody). They understood not everyone was a candidate for a college or university degree and did not feel these individuals should be barred from acquiring additional training in their field of interest. Their second interest was *for those interested in attending a college or university of their choice to obtain an undergraduate or post graduate degree*. Personal financial inability to attend a school should not prevent a person from reaching their goals in education. Third, realizing that in our present economic climate, where corporate mergers and consolidations (and failures), cause unemployment among many long tenured employees, they wanted to assist these *persons in re-training to continue in the work force*. Individuals who wanted to upgrade or acquire new skills should be given that opportunity to keep pace with the demand in the marketplace.

In regard to seminary scholarships, Irving and Katherine were fully aware of the various funds and other financial assistance available to men seeking the priesthood. They felt seminary assistance should come from the church and the funds already established for that purpose.

The generous act of establish this fund was given by Irving and Katherine out of their deep love and affection for the community of St. Mary's Cathedral. Their generosity and great vision will provide many benefits to us and future generations. We pray that the faithful of St Mary's and future recipients will continually remember Irving and Katherine in their prayers. Although not visibly active in church functions during their lifetime, they have made a tremendous impact on the current parishioners, and future generations by their thoughtful act. May all recipients use their award to acquire the knowledge they seek to aid them in becoming productive citizens of our community and faithful Orthodox Christians.

Memory Eternal to Irving T. and Katherine Borris-Hansen.

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Scholarship Application

1. Scholarship Category

Check the scholarship category for which you are applying.

- High School graduate entering college/university in the fall
- High School graduate entering a vocational or technical school
- Current college or university student
- Current vocational or technical school student
- Graduate of Advanced Degree (law, medicine, etc.)
- Adult Education (continuing education, professional development)

Note: It is important to check the correct box as you will be evaluated with respect to your peers. If uncertain about your status, check with a member of the committee.

Name _____
first middle last

Permanent residence _____
number and street

_____ city state zip code

Current or campus residence _____
number and street

_____ city state zip code

Cell telephone () _____ Work/Campus telephone () _____

Email Address _____

Date of birth _____ Gender: Female Male
month/day/year (circle one)

Have you been accepted to a post secondary institution? yes no
(circle one)

If so, name of the institution where you will study _____

License, certificate, degree, or trade vocation sought _____

Graduate or professional degree sought _____

Will you be attending full-time or part-time? _____

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Essay #1: Briefly describe your current participation in your church community. Indicate the level of your involvement and share the significance of these activities to your personal life.

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Essay #2: Share your motivation for continuing your education, and how you will use your education to contribute to both the Orthodox Church and the society as a whole.

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Essay #3: Thinking ahead to 2036, describe what you believe your life will be like. How will the scholarship you receive help you achieve these goals, and how will your Orthodox faith play a role.