

The Maymie and Joe Bergschneider Scholarship



Maymie and Joe Bergschneider were both lifetime residents of Alexander and Jacksonville, Illinois. They both graduated from what was then called Routt High School. Joe continued his education at St. Benedict's Catholic College in Atichson, Kansas, until he was called to serve his country in the Army in WW II from 1943-1946. He was involved in action in three major arenas of WW II: the Rhineland, Central Europe and the Battle of the Bulge. Shortly after he returned from WW II, Joe began a very successful career in farming near Alexander, Illinois.

After Maymie graduated from Routt, she attended MacMurray College with an interest in music. She was actively involved in music her whole life. Maymie and Joe were married shortly after he returned from the war in 1947. Maymie was the supportive partner of Joe in raising seven children and helping in the many roles of a farmer's wife. All seven of their children graduated from Routt Catholic High School. Most of their grandchildren attended Catholic high schools in their respective communities and several graduated from Catholic colleges.

The Catholic faith was central in the lives of Joe and Maymie. They were active members of Visitation Catholic Church in Alexander, Illinois, and Our Saviour Catholic Church in Jacksonville, Illinois. They served as directors for the Diocese in the Office of Rural Life for sixteen years. Under their direction, Project Isidore, an interest free emergency loan program, was instituted to assist farmers throughout the Diocese during the farm crisis during the 1980s. They were awarded the Order of St. Gregory the Great by the Papal Secretary of State in December 2002. This Papal honor is bestowed upon men and women who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments benefiting the church and society.

Maymie and Joe dedicated their lives to a successful marriage, parenting, grandparenting as well as contributing members to their church and community. This scholarship is endowed in their honor by Gretchen and David Miller in hopes that it will encourage students to emulate their values and Catholicism in their lives.

The Maymie and Joe Bergschneider scholarship was established by their family to honor their contributions to family, church, and community. This scholarship will be awarded on an annual basis to a freshman entering Routt Catholic High School in Jacksonville, Illinois. Priority in awarding this scholarship will be based on academic achievement, financial need, community involvement, Christian attitude and information provided in this application.

Instructions to applicant:

- **Attach a cover page containing your name to the front of your application (will be removed during judging)**
- Answer all questions in this application.
- Attach a recommendation from two teachers or administrators.
- Include a copy of your last report card. Sign and date the application.
- You must submit your application to the Routt Development Office **by April 15, 2026.**

The Maymie and Joe Bergschneider Scholarship - Application

- I. List below the activities (in your school, church, or community) in which you have participated and to which you have made a positive contribution. Please be specific about your contributions, leadership, responsibilities, and or accomplishments. (Please tell us of the activity, position held, grade you were involved in at the time of the activity and any recognition you were given. You may attach a sheet if additional space is needed.)

- II. List any honor or award you have received that is not listed above.

<u>Award/Honor</u>	<u>Reasons for Award/Honor</u>	<u>Year Awarded</u>
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- III. Please tell us about your long-term life goals

- IV. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself that you feel important?

V. Essay

This is your opportunity to explain why you are deserving of the Maymie and Joe Bergschneider Scholarship. Please write an essay listing and explaining your top three reasons for choosing a Catholic education. In addition, include one main reason why you deserve this scholarship and what you plan to do with the education you will receive.

Essays must be 400-500 words, typewritten, double-spaced, and work must be an original essay by the student. Any plagiarized work will be disqualified. (Plagiarism is the submission of any portion of the essay that is not the student's own work).

Essays will be judged on the following, listed in order of importance:

1. Overall quality
2. Organization
3. Grammar and spelling

For judging purposes, each paper is assigned a number. No judge will know the name of the student who has written this essay. The Development Office will keep this information confidential. **If you include your name, parents' names, or any family members' names in any areas of the essay, your paper will be disqualified.**

**Deadline to submit essays to the Routt Development Office is April 15, 2026.
Please call the Development Office if you have any questions at (217) 243-8563.**