

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
*“MARCHING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE”*

**SAINT JOHN’S BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Woburn, Massachusetts

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**PURPOSE** Saint John’s Baptist Church offers the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Program to recognize high school students who embrace the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program provides financial assistance for high school seniors committed to social justice and demonstrates leadership or active community service participation.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** Submit a one-paragraph biographical sketch describing achievements, community service involvement, current higher education status, and career goals.

**ESSAY** High school students responding to this year’s writing contest should write an essay of no more than 500 words by selecting one (1) of the following topics:

***Option A.*** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in a speech in 1963 that "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." What impact can embody this philosophy have on society, particularly in the face of adversity or injustice? What is the significance of Dr. King's statement in the context of civil rights activism and the challenges faced by today's society?

or

***Option B.*** In his speech titled "The Drum Major Instinct," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. defined greatness as service and said that "everybody can be great because everybody can serve." How have you served your community? What are your plans for showing your greatness through service in the future?

Please include the applicant's name and birth date on the essay for identification purposes.

**APPLICATIONS** The complete essay and recommendations may be submitted either in writing or by email by March 15, 2025:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Committee  
Saint John’s Baptist Church  
c/o Michael D. West  
38-40 Everett Street  
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801  
[blountwest@comcast.net](mailto:blountwest@comcast.net)

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**SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY WRITING TIPS**

**SELECT**

Select writing topic A or B, not both.

- Familiarize yourself with Dr. King's life. You can accomplish this through research using books, newspaper articles, the internet, and speaking with teachers or librarians who are well-versed in Dr. King's life.
- Relate the topic to circumstances or situations that affect your own life. How does the topic you chose relate to your own life?
- Document all the resources and include them in your bibliography. Include Biblical references where applicable.

**OUTLINE**

Draft an outline to help organize your thoughts and think about the flow of your paper.

**DRAFT**

**First draft**

- Have a teacher, parent, or educator review your first draft.
- Have your reviewer pay special attention to the organization of the paper, the supporting details, and elements that don't make sense to them.
- Update your bibliography.

**Edit**

- Have a teacher, parent, or classmate review your paper for mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation).

**Final Draft**

- Read the paper out loud.
- Make sure your voice resonates in the paper, your analysis, and your vision for the future.

**FINISH**

Do not forget to put your name and birth date on the essay.

Relax! Know that you have done your best on your research paper, and it is ready to submit.