

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Christmas Artwork Contest Entry Form

Announcing the

2025-2026 Missionary Childhood Association National Christmas Artwork Contest!

Nationally, twenty-four winners will be selected in this contest, which includes two GRAND PRIZE winners. All winners receive a commemorative plaque. Grand-Prize winners will have their artwork selected as the official Christmas card of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Each winner will also receive a \$250 award and a matching contribution will be made in their name to the Missionary Childhood Association. Winners are celebrated each December at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, where the artwork is on display during the season of Advent. National contest winners will be notified in summer of 2026 and announced to Catholic media in Fall of 2026.

Archdiocese-wide, ten winners will be selected. All local winners will be recognized at the Archdiocesan celebration of World Mission Sunday, October 18, 2026. Winning artwork will appear on the Missions office official Christmas card, social media and communications throughout Advent.

TO ENTER:

- Mail: Missionary Childhood Association, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 222 N 17th St, Rm #823, Phila, PA 19103
- Submit virtually [scan the artwork and entry form] to mca@archphila.org before January 30, 2026.
- All entries submitted through the mail must be accompanied by a completed entry form. The form should be attached to the artwork with tape or glue stick. Please do not staple the form to the artwork. Please no vertical designs. Please note, artwork cannot be returned.

Deadline for entries is January 30, 2026.

2024-25 National Winners from Philadelphia:

Hailey C • Saint Laurentius School, Phila [left] and Emmie M • Regina Coeli Academy, Abington [right]



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- Submit virtually [*scan the artwork and entry form*] to mca@archphila.org before deadline.
- Each entry submitted must be accompanied by a completed official entry form.
Please do not staple the form to the artwork. The form should be attached to the artwork with tape or glue stick or included as a separate document with the email.
- Please no vertical designs. Please note, artwork cannot be returned.

ARTWORK CONTESTANT INFORMATION:

Student Name: _____

CHECK ONE: ☐ Boy ☐ Girl Grade: _____

SCHOOL/PREP/CCD INFORMATION:

CHECK ONE: ☐ Catholic School ☐ Parish PREP/CCD ☐ Home School

Name of Principal, DRE/CRE and/or Teacher:

School or Parish Name and Address:

Daytime Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____

HOME INFORMATION:

Student's Home Address (as of September 2025):

Parent / Guardian Name:

Daytime Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____

Deadline for entries is January 30, 2026.

Questions? Contact MCA in Philly at MCA@archphila.org or call 215-587-3944

MCA Christmas Artwork Contest Guidelines

- Contest is open to young Catholics in Grades K-7. Entries must be postmarked or received electronically by the Missionary Childhood Association, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 222 N. 17th St– Room #823, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or at mca@archphila.org no later than January 30, 2026.

- Each mailed entry [*drawing*] MUST be accompanied by an official entry form, either attached to the artwork with tape or glue stick or included as a separate document electronically. If mailing, please write the student's name and address on the back of the artwork with a lead pencil should the entry form become detached.

- All entries become the property of the MCA Archdiocesan and National office, which reserves the right to depict all or part of the selected illustrations. It is not possible for the MCA to offer any compensation for entries or to return them.

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

- Artwork must be on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of WHITE paper — no construction or lined paper. White card stock is permissible. [*Digital copies are permitted.*]

- Illustration must be depicted HORIZONTALLY.**

- Students must illustrate one of the subjects listed under the heading "*Subjects.*"

- Acceptable media includes crayons, pastels, markers, tempera or watercolor paints.

- PLEASE — NO LEAD OR COLOR PENCILS.**

- Artwork must be the child's own. Tracings and direct copies of other art cannot be considered. Students selected as finalists will be asked to validate the originality of their artwork.

SUBJECTS

- The Nativity [a Manger scene, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, animals]
- Three Wise Men [presentation of gifts or following the star]
- Shepherds [with sheep, in fields, seeing the angel, or visiting the manger]
- Mother and the Child Jesus [Mary with her infant son]
- Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem
- Newborn Jesus in manger
- The Angel Gabriel

HELPFUL HINTS

- Use a lot of eye-catching color. Bolder colors reproduce best. Lightly colored artwork will not show up well, if reduced.
- Be careful to erase or cover pencil outlines.
- Do not include text or lettering on the drawing.
- Fill up most of the page, being careful not to let the main parts of the drawing get too close to the edges of the paper.
- Make sure facial features on people and animals are bold [for example nose, eyes, lips, etc.] so they will reproduce well.



Please note: Due to the volume of entries received, we are unable to personally acknowledge entries.

Deadline for entries is January 30, 2026.

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