

SERVICE PROJECTS

When you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year, you will make a deeper commitment to follow Jesus and His Church. You will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help you do so. Serving others throughout your life demonstrates the depth of your commitment and love of others the way that Jesus has loved you.

You've probably heard the saying: "Actions speak louder than words." Does the way you behave shout to others that you are a Christian, a follower of Christ? It is not enough that you simply know about your faith. The question is: How do you put your faith into practice? How often do you go out of your way to help others?

To prepare yourself for Confirmation, you are asked to arrange and participate in **at least 36 hours of service** to help others in need. We encourage you to try and serve hours in each of the following three areas: **family, parish, and community.**

Attached are some suggestions for each area of service; your own creative ideas may also be proposed and will require approval from your teacher. Think of this as a Christian internship - trying a variety of opportunities as you practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, the way Jesus taught us to live.

After you have reached out to others in Christian service, reflect on your experiences by completing the attached reflection paper for each area of service. Additional reflection sheets will also be available from your religion teacher.

When giving your time and talent to others, keep the following points in mind:

- Service projects are volunteer; you are not to be paid for them.

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- Try a variety of experiences so that the majority of your hours don't reflect all of the same types of service.
- Your actions are not just a job to be done; they are to selflessly and lovingly help those in need. Try not to complain but provide service with a smile.
- Reflect on how your actions are helping you to take on the mind and heart of Christ to fulfill the needs of others and to build up the Christian community.
- Giving of your time and talent continues after your Confirmation and all through your life.

Family (12 hours)

- Rake leaves, cut grass, shovel snow, wash dishes, help prepare meals, baby-sit siblings, vacuum, and/or do other household chores without being asked without being paid
- Organize a family picnic or outing
- Visit or call relatives you haven't talked to or seen in a while
- Lead family meal prayers for a week...or a month!
- Leave cheerful notes/cards/pictures for parents and siblings to brighten their day
- Tutor or read to younger brothers or sisters

Parish (12 hours)

- Assist with parish activities like the picnic and blood drives
- Visit parishioners in nursing homes (get list from rectory)
- Welcome new parishioners with cards, cookies, etc. (get list from rectory)
- Baby-sit for parish functions
- Be a greeter, altar server, lector, usher, Breaking Open the Word catechist
- Help clean up around church and school and other parish property
- Help decorate and/or clean church for different seasons

Community (12 hours)

- Assist with Vacation Bible School

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- Visit elderly at nursing homes
- Assist elderly neighbors with chores and errands
- Deliver meals to the homebound
- Organize a clothing, food, or toy drive in your neighborhood
- Volunteer at a food pantry, soup kitchen, or free meal program
- Start or help with a recycling program
- Welcome new neighbors with cards, cookies, a visit, etc.
- Organize/participate in Christmas Caroling to raise money for the poor
- Write a letter to your government representative on a moral or social justice issue
- Participate in Pro-life chain and other activities promoting the dignity of life
- Prepare and arrange for delivery of care packages to overseas military personnel/missionaries/peace corps volunteers/children in hospitals/sick and homebound, etc.
- Volunteer with kids with disabilities (i.e. through Special Olympics, at the hospital, etc.)