

# Confirmation Community Service Guidelines

Being a Christian, a Catholic, and a disciple of Christ calls us to live our lives according to the example and instructions Jesus himself gave us. This is our mission as Church, and it's a BIG responsibility! One of the most important lessons Jesus taught us was that we must be willing to be a servant to all people in His name. This means that we must actually DO something to be a disciple of Christ! By doing parish and community service, we demonstrate a willingness to show Christian responsibility to our mission. Therefore, we want all Candidates to have 3 "experiences of service". This means that the Candidates should participate in some type of parish and community service individually as well as a family unit. As parents, we are called to lead by example! An "experience of service" might be helping at a soup kitchen or a nursing home one time. Blessing the student with 3 distinct and different service experiences, can then encourage and inspire them to continue finding ways to actively do Jesus' work through parish and community service after they are confirmed.

**Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ, who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:**

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You should reflect on how the service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life!

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." ~ Proverbs 3:9-10

"If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches." ~ Romans 11:16

The Confirmation process seeks to guide candidates in discovering that discipleship to Jesus Christ is service. As a requirement for Confirmation candidates will learn to integrate an attitude of Christian service by completing the following:

- 10 Hours of parish service – service to the parish community of Saint Patrick.
- 10 Hours of outside community service – service to the community outside the parish.
- Family Project – as a family perform a Christian Service Project together. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." ~ Proverbs 22:6 Coming face to face with human need can be a truly transformational experience opening an entirely new point of view of the world from a Christian perspective!

Complete the Reflection Sheet – Complete paragraph reflections - One sheet for each type of service (parish service, outside community service, family project), so three sheets should be completed. Reflections are to be completed on a separate sheet and attached. **No community service hours will be given for household chores done for any immediate or extended family members or chores for other people (unless they are truly service that gives you an experience of discipleship).**

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## Below are listed suggestions of ways in which you can serve others selflessly (no remuneration):

- Visit the elderly – in senior citizen center/residences or homes.
  - Perform volunteer work in your neighborhood or school.
  - Join the Gardening Team at St. Patrick's.
  - Chapel, after Mass, straighten books, seats and kneelers.
  - Organize/Deliver proceeds from a classroom/parish food drive.
  - Help a handicapped person or support the family of a handicapped child by playing with or caring for the child.
  - Participate in a walk-a-thon to support your favorite charity.
  - Contribute your services to the local library.
  - Initiate a clean-up campaign in a local playground, street, park, etc.
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- Help a teacher before or after school.
  - Visit with and help to take care of someone who is sick.
  - Care for lawns, rake leaves or clear the snow for elderly or sick neighbors.
  - Do some service for senior citizens or shut-ins in your neighborhood by shopping, gardening or housekeeping.
  - Volunteer in a homeless shelter or food pantry
  - Contribute your services to the Parish.
  - Youth Mass -Altar Attendant, Lector or Hospitality Minister
  - Nursery Worker (at church)
  - Soup Kitchen
  - Christmas Baskets
  - Toy Collection (Sorting/Delivery)
  - Perry Out-Reach
  - Others – must be approved by the Religious Education Office as a suitable Apostolic Service.

Spirit of Life, You give us yourself present through Jesus, a commoner, a teacher, a healer, a family member, a neighbor, a miracle worker, a human, God. This person, whom you loved most, was a sign, an example, a sacrifice. Let us remember to keep the story alive and become a people of loving action, following on the path that was groomed for us. Amen. ~ From Moving In the Spirit, Good Ground Press

**NOTE EXAMPLES:** Activities that are **NOT** considered service! - Cleaning your house, Mowing your lawn, Mowing someone's lawn for pay, Raking your leaves, Raking leaves for someone for pay, Babysitting your siblings, Babysitting for pay, Anything you get paid to do, Chores for you family, etc...

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord, rather than for men. Knowing that from the Lord, you will receive the reward to the inheritance.” ~ Colossians 3:23-24.