

St. Patrick Religious Education 2026-27 School Year

Christian Service for Grades 1-6

Jesus taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers we do for Him. Through the **Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy**, we show Christ's love by caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others.

The **Corporal Works of Mercy** focus on the physical (bodily) needs of others, and include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, and burying the dead.

The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** focus on the needs of the heart, mind, and soul, and include admonishing the sinner, instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving all injuries, and praying for the living and dead.

During the 2026–2027 school year, each child is asked to complete the following minimum service hours:

- Grades 1 & 2: **2 hours**
- Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6: **3 hours**

Families who prefer not to have their child volunteer in public may complete **Spiritual Works of Mercy** instead. Examples include praying the Rosary as a family, reading Bible stories to younger siblings, practicing forgiveness, praying for the living and the dead, or comforting someone who is suffering.

Students choosing this option should submit a short paragraph (with parent assistance, if needed) describing what they did and how it helped them grow in faith. Email the office for details.

Religious Education Sponsored Christian Service Opportunities:

Students may complete their service independently or participate in one or more of the following Religious Education Department sponsored events:

- **Grade Level Mass:** Participate by serving as a lector, usher, offertory collector, or bulletin distributor at your grade's assigned 10 a.m. Family Mass (1 hour)
- **Walk for the Poor:** This benefits the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Patrick Parish which provides food and funds to those in need in the Stoneham community.
 - Saturday, **October 17, 2026, 8:30–9:30 a.m.** Meet in the Parish Parking Lot.
 - Earn 1 hour for every \$20 raised.
- **Christmas Cards for the Bereaved and Homebound:** Create handmade Christmas cards at home and return them to be distributed to parishioners who are homebound or grieving the loss of a loved one.
 - November 24–December 9, 2026
 - Earn 1 hour for every 2–4 cards made.
- **Souper Bowl of Caring:** This benefits the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Patrick Parish.
 - February 6–7, 2027 at all weekend Masses.
 - Volunteer to collect donations of food and funds before and after Mass.
 - Earn 2 hours per Mass.

How to document your child's Christian Service:

Record your child's completed Christian Service activity by visiting the [Google Christian Service Form](#).