**Service Hours**

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. Candidates should participate in some type of parish and community service individually as well as a family unit.

Service to others does not need to be elaborate or complicated and…. it can be FUN! Baking a plate of cookies for an elderly friend, mowing grass for someone whose health is failing, and helping with a project at a nursing facility serves others as Christ commanded.

A service report is required by April 15, 2026. The service hour sheet is a tool that is intended to help the students think about the importance of their service to others. Please make sure you log your hours and the person receiving the service signs the form.

You may start collecting your service hours during your Confirmation 1 year. You will need to complete **25 hours of service** hours by April 1st of the year you will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Service Hours Defined:**

**Community (10 Hours):** Any “Free” service you do as an individual or as a group to help out the community in which we live. For example: volunteer in one or more non-profit organizations in town, participating on clothing or food drives, service projects done for boy & girl scouts, 4-H, school groups, etc. Working with younger students for which you do not receive any payment.

**Church (10 Hours):** Any “Free” service you do as an individual or as a group to help out our Church. For example: Serving at Mass, singing in the Choir for Mass, being a reader for Mass. Working at the Pancake Breakfasts, helping during the All-Community Advent and Lent events, helping during the Parish Festival, joining the Green Thumb team during the summer (to take care of the church grounds), etc.

**Family (5 Hours):** You must give your family 5 hours of “Free” service helping them beyond what are your normal chores. For example: raking leaves, cutting grass, put screens on the house, cook a meal for them, etc. Family can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters. Helping your neighbors with chores around their homes also counts towards your family hours.

Other ideas:

* Visit the elderly – in senior citizen center/residences or homes.
* Perform volunteer work in your neighborhood or school.
* Join the Gardening Team (Green Thumb) at St. Joseph's.
* After Mass, straighten books, seats, and kneelers.
* 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 or any other non-profit.
* 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
* Wrapping presents from the Toy Collection during Christmas
* Others – must be approved by the Religious Education Director.

Written report - Due April 15

* + Describe the different service hours performed in the 3 categories.
  + What did you learn from the experience?
  + What type of service was easiest for you? Which one was the hardest? Why?
  + Did this experience help you grow in your faith in any way?

We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to be an active presence in the lives of our young people as they try to do good works for others in Christ’s name.