

Confirmation Preparation Service Component

“Our faith calls us to work for justice; to serve those in need; to pursue peace; and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all our sisters and brothers. This is the call of Jesus, the urging of his Spirit, the challenge of the prophets, and the living Tradition of the Church.” (*Renewing the Vision: A framework for Catholic Ministry*, USCCB, 1997, p. 37)

Encouraging participation in various service opportunities is an important part of helping to solidify the understanding that our faith calls us to service and justice as a way of life. We offer ourselves to others in thanksgiving for all that God and others have done for us. We offer our time, energy, and gifts to building the Kingdom of God.

There are many ways that you can become involved in service during your preparation time. Candidates should talk to their parents and sponsors about choosing ways to serve. While we will not require a specific number of hours, you should keep in mind that this is an important part of Christian living. We will provide several service opportunities over the next 2 years that we will do as a group. We ask that you participate in a minimum of 8 projects, 4 in 7th Grade and 4 in 8th grade, either as a group or on your own. Please complete a service log for each project you participate in.

Types of Service

Family Life: These are things that you do to help your family and can include a variety of actions. Consider everything that happens in your house- the responsibilities of cooking, cleaning, taking care of children and pets, finding time for relaxation/rest/fun, or creating a safe, happy, and trusting home. How can you share the responsibilities and burdens of family life? What are small and simple ways that you can contribute to the household, and, therefore, serve your family?

Parish Life: These are things that you do to help your parish. You can help your parish by becoming involved in a liturgical ministry (greeting, ushering, reading, singing or playing music)- helping the community to worship and pray. You can become involved in a parish ministry (Kids Word, Heart-to-Heart)- helping the parish to minister to its family. Or you can become involved in parish events (St. Nick’s Bazaar, Giving Tree)- helping the parish to serve and reach out to those in need. Consider everything that a parish does for its people and for those in need. How can you share your time, talents, and gifts with the parish?

Community Life: These are things that you do to help create a better community. Part of serving a community is learning about the challenges or issues that the community faces. Once you have learned about some of the challenges or issues, you can serve your community by raising awareness/speaking out about an issue and by providing for the needs of those in the community.

Ideas for service:

- At least once a week take on an extra household chore that you would not normally do.
- At least once a week, organize a dinner menu, shop, and cook dinner with your mom or dad.
- Regularly, help a sibling, friend, neighbor, or schoolmate with his/her homework.
- If your family does not recycle, set up and monitor a recycling system in your home. Encourage recycling practices.
- Serve as a family “energy watchdog” by shutting off lights, radios, and TVs when they are not in use.
- At least once a month, organize a family fun night to help your family relax after a busy week.
- Family History Project: Spend time talking to your relatives and record your family’s history. Gather pictures and stories and share what you have learned with your family.
- Serve as a greeter at Mass (*contact Jim Potthast if interested*).
- Assist the Kids Word program during the 10:30 Sunday Mass (*contact Jim Potthast if interested*).
- Volunteer with a parent to shovel the walkway of a Heart-to-Heart senior (*contact Jim Potthast if interested*).
- Volunteer at the Christmas Bazaar on December 7 and 8, 2019.
- Participate in the Christmas Children’s Choir (*contact Jim Potthast if interested*).
- Make “Get Well” cards for children in hospitals.
- Volunteer to be a teacher’s aide during your free time.
- Ask someone that you do not know well to sit with you at lunch and learn something new about him or her.
- Collect aluminum cans and donate the money to a favorite charity.
- As a family, visit a nursing home and spend an hour speaking with the residents. Learn about the nursing home, the staff, and resident services.
- During bad weather, visit seniors you know to make sure they have everything that they need.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter. Help clean up, play with the animals, or do whatever is needed to make the shelter a nice place for the animals.
- Volunteer for a block of time at a soup kitchen or other social service organization.
- Find a social justice issue that you care about, create a project/presentation on that issue. What is the issue about? Who does it affect? What kind of change can be made? (Please contact Jim Potthast for guidance if you would like to try this project)

Let Jim Potthast know what types of projects you are doing or are interested in doing! Contact Jim Potthast to plan and organize a service opportunity.

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