

**PARISHES OF ST. CHRISTOPHER & ST. PATRICK'S
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM**

**The Sacrament of Confirmation
Service Information Packet
2017-18**



SERVICE IS FAITH IN ACTION!!

WHAT ARE SERVICE HOURS?

They are hours spent sharing your love of Jesus Christ with others who may or may not be as fortunate as you are. It is your opportunity to show that you believe in Jesus and what He taught us by your actions and deeds.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO?

Because Jesus told us to in *Matthew 25:40-And the king will say to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."* The service project is an answer to the Gospel challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. Jesus gave us many examples of loving service.

WHY DO WE DO THEM?

Because, like Jesus, we must love our neighbor and trust that God will always be there for us. To have the promise of salvation fulfilled in us, we much choose to live our faith in both word and action. *James 2:14-17-What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works. Can the faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

WHY DO WE DO IT FOR CONFIRMATION?

Because it is not enough that you know about your faith. How do you put your faith into practice? How often do you go out of your way to help others? Read the Beatitudes in *Matthew 5:3-12*.

HOW DO I START?

Think about what some of your God-given talents are and then list ways that those talents can help in the church, community, and at home. Read *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*. Ask God for guidance. He won't let you down. Open your heart and your mind to His help. Remember your service hours need to be special and not something already being done as a part of your daily routine.

There is a list of service projects included in this packet. The list may you give some ideas of what you would like to do; it is an incomplete list because there are many other opportunities. Perhaps you have your own special service in mind.

WHAT DO I DO?

Before making your decision and commitment: Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance. Talk to your parents and sponsor to discuss ideas. Find out the needs of people in your family, neighborhood, parish, school or community. Make phone calls and ask what you can do to help. Schedule yourself to help. Prepare yourself for the service project by praying and asking for God's help. (Some of your projects might be uncomfortable for you. Ask God to give you patience and compassion. Read and reflect on some of the scripture listed in this information.)

There is a service hour reflection sheet that must be complete for each event.

Service hours enable you to put your faith in action both in the community and the Church. A total of 20 hours will be required by June 1st of 8th grade. Confirmation is held in the fall of 9th grade. No more than 4 hours for each activity will be applied.

Community

Minimum of 10 hours

Must have at **least** 2 different service experiences.

Suggested areas are:

- Town/City community
- School community
- County community
- National organizations

Examples: volunteer in hospitals, veteran associations, soup kitchens, nursing homes, Scouting or organization events that help others.

Church

Minimum of 10 hours

Must have at **least** 2 different service experiences.

Suggested Areas are:

- Ministry Participation
- WIRED Sponsored Events
- Special Events
- Other assistance around the Church

Examples: altar servers, lectures, help keep the church and facilities clean, volunteer in rectory office, assist catechists, help with fundraising events, and all events under "required events".

WHAT ARE MY PARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR?

Your parents are responsible for keeping you on track and making sure that you are working on service projects each month. It is your parents' responsibility to make sure that they sign the forms being turned in. It is also your parents' responsibility to ensure that you are prepared for the service project by encouraging you to pray and meditate before attending the project. They also need to make any parental comments on your project form.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE ATTENDING A SERVICE PROJECT?

It is **YOUR** responsibility to have a Christian attitude. Remember: some of these service projects are going to make you uncomfortable. Pray for compassion and patience and hope in becoming more like Jesus. One of the purposes of service hours is that you learn about yourself (sometimes you will be proud of what you've learned, other times you will be disappointed.) You are maturing, and with maturity comes responsibility. Be a good example by helping others discover Jesus through you and the way you behave and live.

HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SERVICE PROJECT?

Read and reflect on the following prayer.

(Read it out loud and listen to the words--really listen):

Lord,

Thank you for the talents you have given me.

Help me to use them the best that I can.

When I use my talents, I make myself and others feel good.

Give me the strength to go on when I feel like giving up.

I sometimes need that strength and confidence to do my best.

Amen.

- Jeff Boyd, North Platte, Nebraska-*Prayers by Teens*

Always remember:

-YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN DOING THIS. JESUS IS WITH YOU.

Jesus said, "Here I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:27

He never gives you more than you can handle. *1 Corinthians 10:13*

He knows you better than you know yourself.

Things to accomplish while at the service project:

- ☑ Make sure to complete the form
- ☑ Make sure you have the supervisor sign form
- ☑ Be on your best Christian behavior.

And always remember:

We are Jesus' hands and feet on Earth. We find Jesus in service and in showing our love for others.

**Details regarding the service project should be completed on the Service
Reflection Forms
(one for each event).**

This only required for SERVICE events.