

## Service Hours FAQ's

### **WHAT ARE SERVICE HOURS?**

Service hours are times spent sharing your time and gifts with others. It is your opportunity to show that you believe in Jesus and what He taught us by your actions and deeds.

### **WHY DO WE DO THEM?**

Because this is what Jesus told us to do through His teachings and by His example. By your good works you answer the Gospel challenge to love your neighbor as Jesus loves you. Jesus told us, *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."* (Matthew 25:40)

### **WHY DO WE DO SERVICE TO PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION?**

The Sacrament of Confirmation "strengthens the baptized and obliges one to witness to Christ more fully in word and deed." (CCC 1285). As you prepare to accept more responsibility as a fully initiated member of the Church, there is a conscious effort to make service a part of how you live your faith. Jesus told us that in order to have the promise of salvation fulfilled in us, we must choose to live our faith in both word and action.

*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. (James 2:14-17)*

### **HOW DO I START?**

Begin by thinking of some of your God-given talents and then decide how those talents can help in the church, community, and at home. Ask God for guidance and open your heart and mind to His help. Remember your service hours need to be special and not something already being done as part of your current activities.

Also, look to the Gospels and our faith's Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. As young people, the Corporal Works of Mercy might be easier to focus on, however the Spiritual Works of Mercy are also acceptable. For example, helping as a catechist's aide would be a way of instructing the uninformed.

### **WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE SERVICE PROJECTS?**

Small Group Leader during Confirmation preparation classes  
Collect food and/or help stock the shelves at the local food pantry  
Shovel snow or rake leaves for senior citizens  
Help at the Project Just Because warehouse in Hopkinton.  
Collect or repair donations for New Life Home Refurnishing in Walpole  
Walk dogs or care for animals at an animal shelter  
Babysit, tutor, or visit children at the Medway Family Shelter  
Visit and assist with activities for the residents at the Thomas Upham House  
Become a Children's Liturgy Aide at the family Mass  
Help to decorate the church for Christmas and Easter  
Assist faith formation classes as an aide  
Service and/or prepare food for a soup kitchen

While all volunteer work is good, not all meets the criteria of service hours for Confirmation. Some community service projects are simply part of being a good family member or citizen but do not meet the criteria of Christian service. The following are examples of volunteer activities that under normal circumstances are **not** considered service for Confirmation:

- Working for a parent or grandparent without charging
- Babysitting without charging unless there are special circumstances
- Projects done as a requirement with scouts, student council, etc.
- Volunteer work for an election or political campaign
- Coaching for a regular sports team

#### ***WHAT IS THE SERVICE HOUR REQUIREMENT?***

A minimum of 10 hours of service is required before Confirmation, however more is ideal. *The goal is to establish a habit of service over the 2-year preparation.*

#### ***AFTER COMPLETING MY HOURS WHAT SHOULD I DO?***

Upon completion of service hours, the candidates should complete a Service Summary and Reflection found as part of this document. The Service Summary and Reflection are **due for 10<sup>th</sup> graders no later than March 1**. Completed forms can be returned to the Faith Formation Office. Forms are on the parish website.