

Service Component for 6-8th grade students

Dear Parent(s) and Student(s),

Performing service is an essential part of sacramental preparation because through it we show an understanding of our role in the community of believers - the Church. Loving God requires that we reach out to our neighbors and by acts of kindness; we are witnessing God's love within us.

Service projects are an essential part of the catechetical program for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Ten hours of service are required of all 6th & 7th grade students. Students in the 8th grade are required to perform 15 hours of service. By the time the candidates receive the sacrament of Confirmation, they will have performed 35 hours of service. While 35 hours are the requirement, we encourage the candidates to reach beyond this goal!

It is important to emphasize that the young people perform service in a variety of ways. 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 completed service reflection is required for every service project. The service hour sheet is a tool that is intended to help the students think about the importance of their service to others. The point of service is to do for others, **NOT** to simply log hours in order to fulfill a requirement.

Attached is a list of pre-planned service opportunities that your student may want to participate in and a list of service agencies, that I am sure would appreciate any time and help that you can offer. I have found that students enjoy serving side by side with their friends and family. The catechists may also provide the students with ideas for service in the parish community. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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.

In Christ's Peace,

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6th grade: 10 hours of service
7th grade: 10 hours of service
8th grade: 15 hours of service

