

St. Francis of Assisi
Religious Education
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Community Service Project Ideas

“In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.” +Blessed Mother Teresa

During Confirmation preparation, we focus on gaining a deeper understanding of how we can help our Parish and Community. The candidate is required to complete twenty (20) hours of service to the community at large (10) and to the Parish (10).

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ, who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- † Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- † The idea of service is not to be viewed as a way to earn the *right* to receive the sacrament. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a gift from God in and of itself.
- † You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others and build up the Christian community.
- † The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life.

Below we have compiled a list of a few “ideas” to get your creativity flowing.

This is your opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Before you undertake a project please make sure that you check with the Religious Education Office first.

The following are not considered Community service projects:

- **Babysitting**
- **Dog sitting/walking (unless at a shelter)**
- **anything for your home and family (those are your free gifts to your family regardless)**
- **Paid hours do not count as service hours.**
- **Sports related “coaching” and/or assisting**

It is important that the Confirmation Candidates reflect upon the services that they perform –

- Who is served by it?
- How are the people who are being served affected?
- Are you making a difference in someone else’s life?
- How are you, the Confirmation Candidate, affected by performing the service?

If you have any doubts about if something is considered “Community Service” or not as yourself;

- Am I benefitting from it? (Hopefully you are, in a good way)
- Is my family benefitting from it? (Family members should not be benefitting)
- Is it serving a greater purpose? (I hope so!)

Community Service Project Ideas

Community:

- **Friends of Karen-** local nonprofit, helps families of children with life threatening illnesses.
 - Adopt a family for Christmas
 - Back to school supplies
 - Create a “Birthday in a bag” cake, frosting, candles, supplies etc- 20 needed per month.
 - Coloring books and Crayola crayons
 - A money drive to collect money to be donated.
 - Toy drive
- **Ghana school supplies**
 - Collect miscellaneous school supplies- check office to see most needed items.
 - Hold a fundraiser and raise money to be donated.
- **Emergency Shelter Program** – Local shelter for homeless during winter times.
 - Provide a meal for about twenty people.
 - Serve meals
 - Prepare sandwiches
- **Interfaith Food Pantry-** Provides food for those in need.
 - Collect nonperishable foods
 - Give your time and talent to stock shelves.
- **Midnight Run-** Assist the Angels of God Prayer group in preparing supplies.
 - Collect hats, gloves, jackets, scarves (men’s L and XL)
 - Collect EZ Open canned goods (no heating, cooking required)
 - Collect drinks to be supplied (water, Ensure, Boost)
 - Make sandwiches
- **Neighbors Link-** Local Hispanic resource center.
 - Collect sweatshirts (L & XL Men’s) to distribute to day workers
 - Collect infant/baby/children’s items
 - Collect items to give to the ladies
 - Give your time and talent on site.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Local Library
 - Senior Center
 - Organize clean-up of neighborhood parks, cemetery, and other public areas.

Parish:

- **Religious Education Office-**
 - Volunteer in Office June and July
- **VBS- Vacation Bible School** -second week of August-one week.
 - Be a camp counselor for a week.
- **Youth Ministry- meets twice a month**
 - Join the Youth of the Cross and participate in group service projects, trips, outings and fun times.
- **Religious Education-classroom**
 - Volunteer in a designated classroom weekly.
 - Christmas Pageant- assist students, stage crew, set up clean up
- **Church-**
 - Altar Server- Assist Priests at Mass
 - Rectory- answer phones and other duties
- **Bagel Hour** –
 - Assist at bagel hour after the 9:30am Mass
 - Set up, clean up Parish hall.
- **Church events**
 - Volunteer at various events sponsored by the Church.

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Confirmation Project

Name _____

Community service project report.

The project I did, that meant the most to me was:

This meant a lot to me because:

I believe by doing this project it helped me prepare for Confirmation by:

I believe this project also helped build up the church of Jesus by:

Will you continue to offer your services here again or was this a onetime offer? Explain either way.

Is there anything else you would like to discuss about your service projects?
