

“WORKS OF MERCY” CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS

The Works of Mercy component of our Confirmation Program is designed to help you learn what unselfish service really means. **You are expected to complete at least twenty-four (24) hours of service as part of your Confirmation Program.** You are urged to perform far more than the mere 24 hours minimum and to continue to help others in these ways after your Confirmation.

You may complete this service individually or as part of a group. These service projects are to be your free expression of sincere Christian help for others.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, one of the effects of the sacrament of Confirmation is to “give us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.”

In order to prepare yourself to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, it is important that you spend time going out into the world and being Christ to others. There are many ways you can do that, and to help you start, below are four categories that will introduce you to new and to familiar ways to serve others, including your family. Hopefully the suggestions listed below will help you see the needs of those around you. Please pay careful attention to how you obtain the 24 required hours of service – you must have six hours in each of the four categories.

Please note: You are required to keep track of your service hours. Please use the attached log to record them, as **you will turn the log in on 10/29/19**. The events listed below are only suggestions, and you are free to find alternative ways to attain the appropriate hours if they are comparable. However, we do encourage participation in the community events at Annunciation since they provide you with opportunities to foster a closer peer community.

The categories are as follows:

1. **Family:** Chores that are above and beyond those already expected of you and that are something you wouldn't normally choose to do are the best example. You should seek the advice of a parent, grandparent or even your YD Mentor if you need suggestions.
2. **Parish:** These hours should be obtained through assisting at events at the parish. There are many opportunities, and we are happy to help you determine which would be the most fitting for you. A few examples are volunteering to babysit during our monthly family formation sessions, being

an aide in a faith formation class, volunteering at the parish picnic, volunteering at a Kids Night Out event, etc.

3. **Community:** Most events that benefit others are held in your local community are the best way to fulfill your service hours. These might include volunteering at the Special Olympics, an animal shelter, a hospital, a nursing home, etc. You may count hours that you are also counting for school in this category.
4. **Spiritual:** Though this category may seem too vague, it is by far one of the most beneficial. Participation at any special Mass or service would most likely qualify, such as the Holy Week services, going to Confession, and attending the Stations of the Cross. You could say a Rosary with a family member, spend time reading Scripture and discussing it with a parent, or attend Convention, March for Life, or some other special retreat.

Another thing to remember when working to fulfill your 24 hours (6 per category) is that you can only count four hours per event. Each event must be a minimum of one hour (see exceptions below), and you will need a supervising adult to sign the service log.

Participation at Mass counts in the following ways:

- Altar Server (1 hour per Mass)
- Usher, Greeter, Gift Bearer (15 minutes – if you do it 4 times it counts for 1 hour- you can mix and match to add up to the 1 hour)
- Lector (1 hour per Mass)
- POP Culture (1 hour per Mass)

