

Confirmation Service Information Packet 2016-2017

Performing service is just one component in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation at Christ the King Parish. It is one of the six tasks of catechesis that the Bishops of the United States have asked each parish to do in order to follow the example of Christ the Teacher. It is one part of a unified whole to form Disciples of Christ and to send them forth in mission. It is meant to enrich the formation experience of each Confirmation Candidate. While it can be challenging to complete the expectations, it will help change the way each Candidate understands his/her faith in light of his/her call to service and discipleship.

Please read this packet in its entirety. Students may not start counting service hours until **September 1 of their 7th grade year**. This is so that the students understand that they are beginning a year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The service component of their formation is a great way to start their preparation.

“Christ the Teacher” provides the model of discipleship found in the following Scriptural passage:

The Judgment of the Nations. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ 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.’ (Matthew 25:31-46)

We can reflect further on the importance of service in the following Scriptural passage:

“What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled’, without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But some one will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith” (James 2:14-18).

We are challenged by Christ and the early Church to empty ourselves out of love for God through acts of service and to follow the example of Jesus the Teacher as he emptied himself on the Cross.

What acts of service are considered acceptable?

Based on the Scripture passages above, service should be focused on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. However, specific service opportunities are not limited to these specific works. For Jesus says, *‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’* Therefore, any act of service for the poor, the disabled, or for any organization that promotes the “least of these” or that uphold the dignity of human life will be accepted.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

Attached is a list parish ministries or area Service Agencies that reflect the understanding of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The list also has a legend which indicates the type of service that it would qualify as.

There will be two opportunities, to be announced, offered by the parish as service in a group setting.

In addition, there may be service opportunities that arise through the year. Students will receive a flyer or parents will receive an e-mail notice when these opportunities occur.

Any service that is not listed or any service information not directly communicated to the student or parent through the parish/school will need to be pre-approved by Mrs. Oross.

How many hours of service are expected to be completed?

We expect students to complete 12 hours of service beginning **September 1, 2016**. Completion of service hours is expected by **August 14, 2017**.

A variety of service settings is encouraged.

We ask that the 12 hours be completed in the following manner:
4 hours by the individual candidate
4 hours by the individual and a family member or members or sponsor
4 hours in a classroom or group setting

What is not considered service?

- Doing chores or babysitting at home or for an extended family member
- Volunteering for a commercial entity that is making a profit from the work it is doing
- Any service performed for a material or monetary reward
- Any service performed that is self-serving the candidate or club in which they belong. (i.e. selling candy at a concession stand from which the profits go back to the sports program)
- Ministerial participation in regular attendance at Mass (i.e. altar serving, Children's Liturgy of the Word, or choir)

We also ask that a service proposal sheet be filled out and returned by November 30, 2016. This will be given to the candidates in early November. This is a tool to aid the candidate in discerning the type of service they would like to perform.

Place of Service	Type of Service (family, individual, group)	# hours	Work of Mercy	Signature of Supervisor	Date of Service

Accountability

Students are asked to complete the attached Service Hour Log sheet during the first week of school. An example of the log sheet is shown about. Students are also required to turn in a reflection paper based on their service experience. The rubrics and due date for the service paper be given to the students when the Service Hour Log sheet is turned in at the beginning of the school year. Students at Christ the King School will receive a grade for their service log sheet. If students do not fulfill the required amount of hours, perform service that applies to a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, or does not get pre-approval when involved in a service not on the pre-approved list, then the grade for service will be affected.

‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’
(Matthew 25:45)

