

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Candidates for Confirmation are seeking to be mature Catholics. To that end, they must be attending Mass, listening to the word of God in their life, and practicing the ministry of charity. To prepare the candidates to exercise their duties as mature Catholics, the Confirmation preparation program has a Christian service requirement.

Each Confirmation candidate is required to complete a minimum service requirement *each year* at approved activities according to the attached sheet. A Christian service form must be completed and signed by the student. *Parents, this is not your job. Your child is the one performing the service – he/she needs to be responsible for filling out the form, getting it signed, and handing it in.* Copies of this form are available in the Religious Education Office and can also be downloaded from the junior high page of the parish website. The service form must include the printed name, signature and contact information of the adult who supervised the service. Parent signatures are not acceptable.

*Please note that not all volunteer work will count toward the service requirement.*

### **What is considered Christian service?**

Service to others is anything you do for someone else, without being paid, and is **out of the ordinary** to make their life better. Think of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (Matthew 25:31-46). Get your bible out and read them over and you will get the idea of the service that Jesus had in mind for his followers. Taking the trash out for your mom doesn't count! Helping your grandparents clean their house or yard is something expected from you; it is not out of the ordinary and is not considered a service project. Visiting the elderly in the nursing home is a work of mercy, collecting food for the poor is a work of mercy. Christian service is work done that is geared primarily towards the poor, the disadvantaged, elderly, or handicapped - those most in need – or something that is designed to benefit the community at large such as:

Volunteering at any agency designed to support people in need (like soup kitchens, homeless shelters, retirement homes, hospitals, Goodwill stores, etc.)

Saints Peter & Paul church activities volunteer

Volunteering for an organization that benefits the community at large such as the Naperville Public Library or Safety Town

## What does not count for service?

Christian service does not include the ordinary obligation one has to family, friends, and neighbors

Babysitting – including day care facilities - unless you are babysitting free of charge at the church or at a community agency designed to benefit the needy.

Any activity where you are paid or receive something in return

Boy Scout or Girl Scout activities

School activities

Volunteering for any place that is making a profit from the work being done

Volunteering at sports events unless they are designated as a fundraiser for a worthy cause

A Christian Service Form must be filled out and submitted for each act of Christian service. Please note the following when filling and submitting forms:

- Forms must be filled out by the student and the adult who supervised the activity. Parents should not be filling out or signing forms for their child.
- Forms must be submitted within two weeks of the completion of the activity. (Forms for service completed over the summer can be handed in when classes begin in September.)
- Forms detailing activities requiring prior approval must be accompanied by an approval sheet.
- Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

**Category A - If choosing from this category, select a minimum of ONE. All of these activities require a commitment to a regular volunteer schedule.**

Vacation Bible School – either at SSPP or another Catholic church	No longer available for 2015 at Saints Peter and Paul
Altar Server	Must commit to a regular mass schedule and serve at least 6 Masses. Contact Deacon Michael Crowell at 630-718-2197
SSPP childcare	Must commit to a regular schedule.  During RE classes: Tuesday 4:15 – 5:30 PM OR Wednesday 4:15 – 5:30 PM  During Mass: Sunday mornings during 9:30 AM or 11:00 AM Mass. Please note that volunteering at childcare during Mass does NOT fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation.  Contact Donna Widmann at 630-718-2165
SSPP Music Ministry	Must commit to a regular mass schedule. Includes Children’s Choir.  Contact Matthew Sprinkle at 630-718-2114
SSPP Shepherd	Eligible volunteers will help lead and supervise children during Children’s Liturgy of the Word during 9:30 Chapel Masses on Sundays. Must commit to a regular schedule.  Contact Deacon Ron Brown at 630-718-2153
St. Patrick’s Residence	Must commit to a minimum of 20 hours and be at least 13 years old.  Contact the Volunteer Department at (630) 416-6565, extension 528 or at <a href="mailto:volunteer@stpatricksresidence.org">volunteer@stpatricksresidence.org</a>
Naperville Safety Town	10 hour minimum commitment - See <a href="http://www.napervillejuniors.org/Safety.htm">http://www.napervillejuniors.org/Safety.htm</a> for details.
Naperville Library Reading Program	8 hour minimum commitment  Contact Naperville Library for details

<p><b>Category B - If choosing from this category, select a minimum of FOUR.</b> At least two of these activities must involve service to people. Each activity must be for a minimum of 2 hours.</p>	
Luminary Mass	Help prepare luminary bags and other tasks as needed. Usually held in October the Sunday before Columbus day. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.
Feed My Starving Children	Packing food for needy children. See <a href="http://www.fmsc.org">www.fmsc.org</a> for details and to sign up.
SSPP Secret Santa Shop	Help young children select gifts, wrap, etc. Usually held the first Saturday in December at SSPP. Further information will be available in November.
St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive	Help distribute bags and load trucks with donated clothing. Usually held in March. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

We acknowledge that there are many other activities not listed here that would be appropriate for Christian service. We'd love to hear about them! Submit a *Christian Service Activity Pre-Approval Form* with a description of the activity for approval *prior* to doing the activity.

