



St. Thomas the Apostle PREP

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CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS

"For by the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obligated to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (CCC1285)

A WORD ABOUT SERVICE

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

- *It is selfless and loving to help those in need. Your service is not just a job to be done.*
- *You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the need of others, and build up the Christian Community.*
- *The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation, and all through your life.*
- *As parents, we should encourage and invite our children to develop this "way" of service so that it may grow throughout their lives. This is one of the duties that we are called to do: to guide our children to come to know, love and to serve God.*

WHAT ARE SERVICE HOURS?

They are hours spent sharing your love of Jesus Christ with others who may or may not be as fortunate as you are. It is your opportunity to show that you believe in Jesus and what He taught us by your actions and deeds.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO?

Because Jesus told us to in *Matthew 25:40* – *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."*

The service project is an answer to the Gospel challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. Jesus gave us many examples of loving service.

WHY DO WE DO THEM?

Because, like Jesus, we must love our neighbor and trust that God will always be there for us. To have the promise of salvation fulfilled in us, we must choose to live our faith in both word and action. *James 2:14-17* "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works. Can faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also, faith of itself if it does not have works, is dead."

WHY DO WE DO IT FOR CONFIRMATION?

Because it is not enough that you know about your faith. How do you put your faith into practice? How often do you go out of your way to help others? **Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12.**

HOW DO I START?

Think about what some of your God-given talents are and then list ways that those talents can help in the church, community, and family. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.** Ask God for guidance.

WHAT DO I DO?

Before making your decision and commitment: **Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.** Talk to your parents to discuss ideas. Find out the needs of people in your family or neighbors. Make phone calls and ask what you can do to help. Schedule yourself to help. Prepare yourself for the service project by praying and asking for God's help. (Some of your projects might be uncomfortable for you.) Ask God to give you patience and compassion. Read and reflect on some of the scripture listed in this information.

WHAT ARE MY PARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR?

Your parents are responsible for keeping you on track and making sure that you are working on service projects over the summer months. It is your parents' responsibility to make sure that they sign the Service Sheet being turned in. It is also your parent's responsibility to ensure that you are prepared for the service project by encouraging you to pray and meditate before doing the project.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE DOING MY SERVICE PROJECT?

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to have a Christian attitude. Remember some of these service projects are going to make you uncomfortable. Pray for compassion and patience and hope in becoming more like Jesus. One of the purposes of service hours is that you learn about yourself (sometimes you will be proud about what you have learned; other times you will be disappointed.) You are maturing, and with maturity comes responsibility. Be a good example by helping others discover Jesus through you and the way you behave and live.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A SERVICE PROJECT:

1. Read scripture to help you get into the right mindset. Try these and look for some that will have special meaning for you:
 - *Matthew 5:3-12 (Beatitudes), Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*
 - *Matthew 10:8, James 2:14-17, Matthew 15:31-46*
2. Read and reflect on the following prayer. (Read it aloud and listen to the words – really listen.)

Lord,

Thank you for the talents you have given me.

Help me to use them the best that I can.

When I use my talents, I make myself and others feel good.

Give me the strength to go on when I feel like giving up. Amen.

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*"Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord, rather than for me.
Knowing that from the Lord, you will receive the reward to the inheritance.*

Colossians 3:23-24

ACCEPTABLE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

Email amadonna@saintthomasob.com or call 732-251-1660

- ❖ **Vacation Bible Camp** – Junior Leaders
June 22nd to June 26th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
You must be able to attend every day.
Do not sign up if you have appointments, vacation, etc.
(Contact PREP Office for details).
- ❖ **Food drive for St. Thomas the Apostle Food Pantry**
(Contact PREP Office for details).
- ❖ **Parish Grounds Clean-Up** under the direction of the Maintenance Dept.
(Contact PREP Office to register).
- ❖ **PREP Aide to assist the catechist in a class for the year.** (Contact PREP Office to register).
- ❖ **Help at the monthly Deacon's Table** with Deacon Scott. (Contact PREP Office to register).
- ❖ **Organize a neighborhood or park clean-up** with your town.
- ❖ **Take care of lawns or rake leaves** for elderly or sick neighbors.
- ❖ **Any other service activity not listed, Call the PREP Office before you begin.**



ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT CONSIDERED SERVICE:

- Assisting at any sports, dance or cheer organization (besides Just4Kix or other similar program).
- Helping in an office or workplace unless it is a non-profit charitable organization.
- Chores for your family (Cleaning your room, yard work, taking out garbage etc.).
- Babysitting for pay
- Mowing the lawn for pay
- Raking leaves for pay
- Chores for anyone for pay.