

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECTS

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (MT 25:40)

God’s mercy is “endless” and “inexhaustible.” He invites us not only to receive the fullness of His mercy but also to allow it to overflow from us and into others. When we receive God’s mercy, our only response is to share it with others, which we can do through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

We are part of a community, and it is our obligation and duty to serve our brothers and sisters. By serving others, we can spread the light of the Gospel to the world!

REQUIREMENTS

- The Confirmation Preparation Program at St. Lawrence Parish is a two-year formation process that begins in the 7th grade or High School Year 1. Students celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the end of their 8th grade year, or High School Year 2.
- Each year, students are required to complete at least **12 hours of service**. The Confirmation Service Record form needs to be submitted by the due date of each year (See the Faith Formation Calendar or the due dates located at the top of the form)
- Students will need to complete a **total of 24 hours by the due date of the year they will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.**
- Service hours for each year include at least 4 Community Hours, 4 Church Hours, and 4 Family Hours. If hours are completed before the due date, please mail or drop off this form to the Faith Formation Office. Please mark the envelope “Confirmation – Service Hours”
- All projects must be in accord with **Church teaching and unpaid**. Service projects should not be tasks that are ordinarily expected at home, or something you want to do just for your own interests and comfort.
- If you are not sure if the service project can be applied as Confirmation Service, please contact the Faith Formation Office at fft@stlchester.org. Sister Marie, the Director of Religious Education, will contact the parents to let them know the suitability of the service project.
- The Confirmation Service Record Form is to be signed by parents. Please turn in the form to your religion teacher or catechist on the due date (See the Faith Formation Calendar)
- The Faith Formation Office will post as many service opportunities as possible via FlockNote so our candidates can participate in the projects. However, candidates are encouraged to challenge themselves and be creative! Besides ongoing established programs, candidates might have some new ideas to explore or share with others. Their service project should lead them to a greater desire to serve further, draw out virtues in their life, and ultimately bring them closer to God.

COMMUNITY (at least 4 HOURS): Any free service you do individually or as a group to help out the community in which we live. For example, clothing or food drives, raking leaves, handing out flyers, helping the Vacation Bible School or Faith Formation Program, volunteering to help youth groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, working with younger students for which you do not receive any payment, etc...

CHURCH (at least 4 HOURS): Any free service you do individually or as a group to help our Church. For example, being an usher, singer, reader, or altar server for Mass; working at the Parish Festival, Pancake Breakfasts, church cleaning, snow shoveling, etc.

FAMILY (at least 4 HOURS): You are asked to give your family 4 hours of free service, helping them **beyond your normal chores**. For example, raking leaves, cutting grass, cooking, cleaning, setting up tables, etc... Family can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters. Helping your neighbors with chores around their homes also counts towards your Family hours.

TWO TYPES OF SERVICE PROJECTS

1. CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- **Feed the hungry:** Bring canned goods to food pantries and soup kitchens. Volunteer as a family to serve others.
- **Give drink to the thirsty:** Conserve water. Be thoughtful when using natural resources.
- **Shelter the homeless:** Help neighbors care for their homes. Donate to Catholic Charities or Habitat for Humanity.
- **Visiting the sick:** Spend time with those who are sick. Or cannot leave their homes. Call, send a card, or email someone who is sick.
- **Visit the imprisoned:** Pray for prisoners. Visit people “imprisoned” by loneliness, sickness, or old age.
- **Bury the dead:** Attend wakes and funerals. Provide meals for grieving neighbors. Offering condolences or sending a card to someone who has lost a loved one. Whenever you pass a cemetery or intentionally visit one, take a moment to pray for those who have gone before you.
- **Clothe the naked:** Donate clothes to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Buy fewer new clothes and give money to those in need. Consider giving more time, energy, or money in order to benefit our brothers and sisters who are in need.

2. SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- **Instruct the ignorant:** Learn about the Catholic faith. Share what you know with others. Teach by your example.
 - **Counsel the doubtful:** Be positive. Share with others your confidence in God. Encourage others to put their hope and trust in God.
 - **Admonish sinners:** Stand up for what you believe in. Treat others with respect. Explain kindly why you disagree with how others are behaving.
 - **Bear wrongs patiently:** Try not to be critical. Overlook other’s mistakes. Assume the best of others.
 - **Forgive offenses:** Pray for those who have hurt you and pray for the grace to forgive. Let go of grudges. Be kind, even if your kindness is not returned.
 - **Comfort the afflicted:** Walk with others through their pain. Encourage those who seem discouraged. Offer sympathy to those who are grieving. Send a card to someone going through a difficult time. Listen to and comfort a friend who needs to vent or cry.
 - **Pray for the living and the dead:**
 - Keep a list of those for whom you promised to pray.
 - Visit the graves of loved ones.
 - Pray for those who have helped you in your life.
 - Offer up a Mass for a deceased loved one or family member.
 - Make a family pilgrimage to visit holy places.
 - Pray the rosary for the intentions of others
 - Adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays (5 pm - 9 pm in the Church) and Fridays (9:30 pm- 5 pm in the Chapel)
 - Attend Holy Mass both weekdays and Sunday
 - Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with the parishioners every day at 3 PM via Zoom
- (Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81367910679?pwd=OqSQ0lCoztQR6C9jdfxJ8lEJWKkpRs.1> , Meeting ID: 813 6791 0679, Passcode: 363936)