

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS

Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that "Service hours" is not only required in the Archdiocese of Chicago, but is part of the Confirmation preparation program in all Archdioceses of the Catholic Church in the United States.

Each Archdiocese indicates its "minimum hours" that a Confirmation candidate should give of himself to others.

Confirmation is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and becoming a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.

What does this mean?

We are part of a COMMUNITY!!! A world-wide community which has been commissioned to live as Christ! We are taught to be our "brother's keeper" and to serve the community.

Jesus himself said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Service hours are not just about getting them over with, they are about experiencing living and loving as Christ. This is why we are required to experience several types of service.

What is Required?

In our Archdiocese of Chicago the Confirmation Candidates are required to complete a minimum number of "Service hours" in order to be Confirmed.

In our parish, these **30-40 (15-20 in grade 7th & 15-20 in grade 8th)** hours are broken up into 3 categories:

- 10 to 13 - "Family" hours
- 10 to 14 - "Parish" hours
- 10 to 13 - "Community" hours

What counts for which category?

Family (5-7 Hours): You must give your family 5 hours of “Free” service helping them beyond what are your normal chores. For example: raking leaves, cutting grass, put screens on the house, take out their pier or boats, cook a meal for them, etc. Family can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters. Helping your neighbors with chores around their homes also counts towards your Family hours.

Parish (5-7 Hours): Any “Free” service you do as an individual or as a group to help out our Church. For example: Serving at Mass, helping the ushers at Mass.

Singing in the Choir for Mass. Being a reader for Mass. Working at the Parish Festival, “Loving Lunches”, church cleaning, cleaning up outside of the church /school, gardening around the church, snow shoveling, etc.

Community (5-7 Hours): Any “Free” service you do as an individual or as a group to help out the community in which we live. For example: raking leaves, handing out flyers, clothing or food drives, service projects done for boy & girl scouts, school groups, etc. Hours spent volunteering to help youth groups and youth sports. Working with younger students for which you do not receive any payment.

I hope I have explained the importance of service hours and that this will help YOUR CHILDREN understand the purpose of giving of themselves and sharing their time with others.

Beata Bosak

*Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
SS..Thomas Becket and Alphonsus Liguori Parish
St. Alphonsus Liguori Campus
411 N Wheeling Rd
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
847.255.9490 ext.116*

