

# CONFIRMATION CHRISTIAN SERVICE 2025-2026



## 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. Performing service is an essential part of sacramental preparation because through it we show an understanding of our role in the community of believers - the Church. Loving God requires that we reach out to our neighbors, and by acts of kindness we are a testament to God's love within us.

## REQUIREMENTS:

**Students entering Confirmation 2:** Required to complete a total of 20 hours (including hours accumulated in Confirmation 1) of Christian service by October 1, 2025.

**Students entering Confirmation 1:** Required to complete a total of 20 hours of Christian service by October 1, 2026. Students may begin accumulating hours on June 1, 2025.

**All Confirmation students** are also required to participate in the Parish Service Day Food Collection ***in addition to*** the minimum 10 hours of service. See additional info attached at the end of the packet.

## SUBMITTING HOURS:

**A Christian service form for each activity must be completed in full 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.* A copy of this form is attached and can also be downloaded from the junior high page of the parish website. Please note that the form must be filled out in its entirety. Incomplete forms will be returned to the student and must be resubmitted. The service form must include the printed name, signature, and contact information of the adult who supervised the service.

## **SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

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

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.

- 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 - You will be notified of opportunities as they become available.
- 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

**If you are not sure whether something would count toward the Christian service requirement, *please ask*.**

### **These things can be done at home:**

COLOR-A-SMILE – <https://colorasmile.org/> (Color-A-Smile will validate hours. Please follow the instructions on their website.)

LETTERS TO THE ELDERLY – See <https://loveforoureldeers.org/letters>

RAKE LEAVES OR SHOVEL SNOW FOR A NEIGHBOR

### **Parish Activities:**

PARISH SERVICE DAY (October 25, 2025) - With partners from multiple sites and community organizations across Naperville, the day brings together the entire Saints Peter and Paul community to serve others. The goal is to go out into the community as a parish and perform various projects to help individuals, organizations, and facilities that need assistance. **This is a family event. Students cannot be dropped off to complete service on their own.** Further information will be forthcoming closer to the date.

OTHER: Other parish service activities will be offered during the year as they come up. Please check your email regularly for updates.

### **Community organizations:**

WEST SUBURBAN COMMUNITY PANTRY – Ages 8 and above with parent

See <https://wscpantry.org/kids-volunteer/> for details.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN - See [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) for details and to sign up. Please note that a maximum of TWO Feed My Starving Children sessions will be permitted.

NAPERVILLE HUMANE SOCIETY – Ages 13-15

See <https://www.naperhumane.org/volunteering>

OPERATION SUPPORT OUR TROOPS – For ages 13 and up

See <https://www.osotamerica.org/membership-and-volunteer-information/>

There are other activities not listed here that would be appropriate for Christian service. We'd love to hear about them! Send an email to [tp Pratt@sspeterandpaul.net](mailto:tp Pratt@sspeterandpaul.net) with a description of the activity for approval *prior* to doing the activity to make sure it's approved.

# MANDATORY FOOD COLLECTION SERVICE PROJECT FOR ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS



In past years, the Confirmation students have participated in “Harvest Sunday” a Naperville-wide food collection, collecting up to 6 TONS of food for West Suburban Community Pantry and becoming their biggest single donor each year. Dwindling numbers of students are making our previous means of collection impractical. However, the need for food assistance in our communities is greater than ever.

The parish is holding a Service Day on **Saturday, October 25, 2025**. Each Confirmation student must donate **a minimum of 5 bags of food** on that day. Students are encouraged to collect donations from neighbors and friends, or they are welcome to make the donation entirely on their own.

Donations can be dropped off any time 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. All those volunteering at Service Day will be encouraged to drop off donations as well. Specific details – drop-off location, etc. - will be communicated as we get closer to the date.

