**St. James Family Centered Catechesis**  
**Confirmation Service**

*Jesus said unto him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* Matthew 22:37-39

**WHY SERVE:** This Scripture reminds us that true love for our neighbor cannot be separated from our love for God. It's very important that we understand and pass on to the children why we have "service requirements" as Confirmation preparation so this does not become just another box to check.

Confirmation is not “graduation from CCD.” Rather it is a commissioning for our young people to go out and live the mission of the Church, i.e. - Share the Good News Jesus explains above with others. How did Jesus do this? More often with actions than with words. Exposing the children to service projects helps them to experience this first hand.

**HOW SERVE:** Shortly after the quote above, Jesus gives us the Corporal Works of Mercy as a guide to loving God and our neighbor. Please review them with your child as you look for opportunities to serve our parish community, our neighbors and others and our own families. See guidelines for service to be recorded by the end of both 7th and 8th grade. Never hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions – well before this becomes a stress for your child or family!

**THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**
1. Feed the hungry  
2. Give drink to the thirsty  
3. Clothe the naked  
4. Shelter the homeless  
5. Visit and ransom the captive  
6. Visit the sick  
7. Bury the dead

**THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**
1. Instruct the ignorant  
2. Counsel the doubtful  
3. Admonish sinners  
4. Bear wrongs patiently  
5. Comfort the afflicted  
6. Forgive wrongs willingly  
7. Pray for the living and the dead

**TOTAL FCC SERVICE REQUIREMENT:** 12 HOURS (in both 7th & 8th grade due by last FCC class)

- **5-7 hours – serving St. James Parish** – Serving at Mass as Altar server, Children’s Choir, lector, usher, etc, help set up/clear up FCC and service projects through our Parish (please see the weekly Church bulletin, the School of Religion's weekly e-newsletter or St. James Bold Middle School Ministry - stjames@boldym.com for opportunities)

- **5-7 hours – serving the community** – Use Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as a guide

- **2 hours – serving your family members.** Be creative. Who needs help? Go help them. Who needs a smile? Make it happen. Lots of small acts or several big ones. Just be sure to love those who love us the most. (Help around the house, special visit/gift for grandparents, homework help for sibling…)

**NEW!**

We ask that you **avoid** the following as service unless there is an extenuating circumstance that makes it a true Work of Mercy.

- Babysitting, Tutoring, or any service that provides "free labor" for a private company or business
- Any service for a sporting activity, i.e. helping with practices, volunteering at a snack shack, etc. (Participating in 5K Runs are acceptable as long as money raised is for a charitable organization)
- Any hours earned through Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. Please do not double count hours.

*FCC Service Project Record Form*
St. James Family Centered Catechesis
Confirmation Service

Brief Description of the service (who did it serve?)

Date & Time Spent:

What Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy inspired this service?

Your reaction? (I.e. How did it make you feel? Would you do it again? Did you learn anything about yourself or others?)

Signature of witness to the service hours earned (parents allowed):

__________________________________________________________________________

Please complete a service form for EACH service project. Submit them when the year’s requirements have been completed - not individually - to the School of Religion Office no later than the LAST FCC CLASS in May.

▪ Scan and email to: stjamesccd@yahoo.com; OR
▪ Mail to: St. James School of Religion, 200 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF ALL FORMS BEFORE SUBMITTING!