

~ Mission Hours ~

Youth Sacramental Formation

All Confirmation students are required to complete Mission Hours from completing acts of mercy to our community.. To help deepen the sense of service and to uphold the mission of St. Vincent de Paul, Mission Hours are introduced in 6th grade. Hours are gradually increased through 8th grade, so that when our students are Confirmed, they have a strong sense of what it means to love thy neighbor as ourselves. To promote variety in the experience, not only should the number of mission hours be completed but also a few different mission projects which correlate with different works of mercy need to be completed.

Grade Level	# of Hours	# of Works of Mercy to complete	Due Dates
Grade 7	10	4	March 28, 2022
Grade 8	15	6 (1 of which is "out of comfort zone")	March 28, 2022

Mission hours can include a variety of activities that meet these criteria:

** The student is **not being paid** for the activity.

** The activity is not a part of the student's general chores (part of being a member of a family: i.e. doing the dishes, sweeping the floor, watching younger siblings, etc.)

** "Out of Comfort Zone" is any activity away from St. Vincent and regular family activities.

** The activity is done with a heart of mission and helping- such as any of the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy

****Mission hours are due on the following date:**

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022**

When a student completes a mission project, he or she should fill out the Mission Tracker (*attached*) and have the person in charge sign it to verify the work was done. If this is a family project or the form does not get signed when volunteering, **a parent signature will be accepted.**

WHAT ARE MISSION 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 by your actions and deeds.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO?

We complete mission hours because Jesus told us to: 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 mission project is an answer to the Gospel challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. Jesus gave us many examples of loving missions.

WHY DO WE DO THEM?

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 the 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 in itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

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 at home. Read 1Corinthians 12:1-11. Ask God for guidance. He won't let you down. Open your heart and your mind to His help. Remember your mission hours need to be special and not something already being done as part of your family routine. There is a list of mission projects included in the packet. The list may give you some ideas of what you would like to do; it does not list everything you can do because there are many other opportunities God will provide for you. Perhaps you have your own special mission in mind.

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, neighborhood, parish, school, or community. Make phone calls and ask what you can do to help. Schedule yourself to help. Prepare yourself for the mission by praying and asking for God's help. (Some of your projects might be uncomfortable for you. Ask God for patience and compassion.