

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Level 6 & 7 Community Service Guidelines

2020-2021



The Bible tells us that Jesus came not to be served but to serve, and as His followers we know that we are called to do the same. Jesus tells us, "Truly I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers & sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). At our Confirmation we receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, giving us a deeper power to go carry out the mission Jesus has given us: to witness His love to the world and to serve others.

To begin living out this mission, we ask our 6th and 7th grade Confirmation students to participate in some community service activities this year. Each child is asked to complete a minimum of 6 hours of service by September 1st, 2021.

The goal of this project is for our young people to understand how we are called to witness Christ's love through acts of service, and to experience the great joy that is found in giving of ourselves.

Service is based on the **spiritual and corporal works of mercy** (see below), and most of all, on the example of Christ. When giving service, please consider the following points:

...Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.

...Service hours should not be paid activities or responsibilities already expected of you (e.g. household chores).

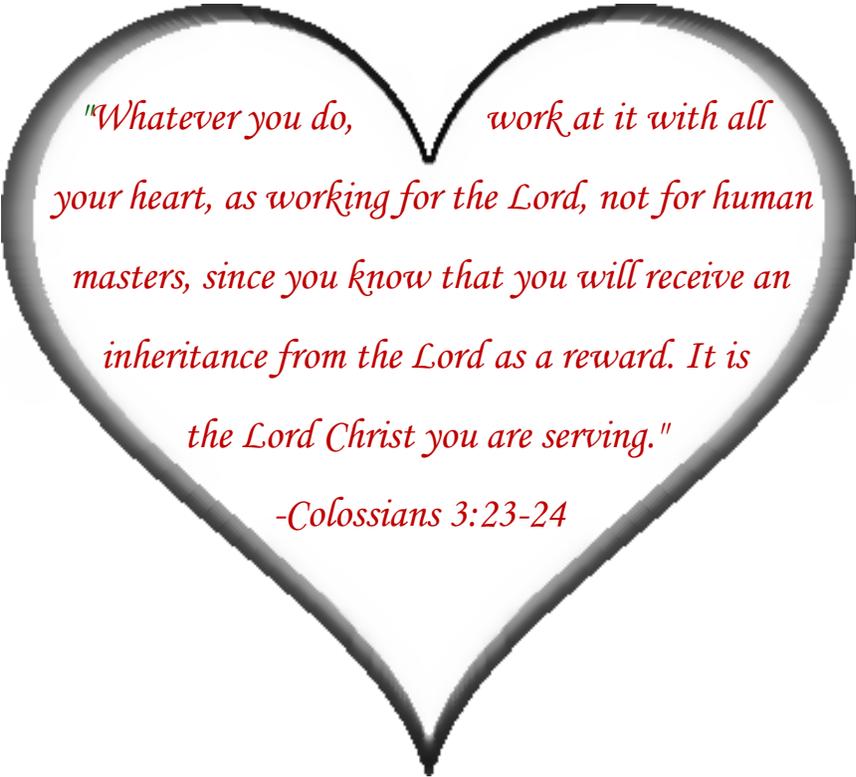
...We encourage you to reflect on how the service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, & fulfill the needs of others.

...The gift of service should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life! This is how you contribute to building up God's Church and spreading the Gospel.

On the following pages, we have compiled a list of ideas for community service in the time of COVID-19. The list includes activities that can be done in-person, virtually, and at home. You are also welcome to come up with your own service ideas, however, they must be approved by the religious education office (call us at 631-737-8915).

IMPORTANT:

Please log your community service hours on the form provided below.



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

-Colossians 3:23-24

COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS FOR LEVEL 6 AND 7 STUDENTS

The Corporal Works of Mercy

~ Feed the Hungry & Give Drink to the Thirsty ~

1. Volunteer to serve meals at a soup kitchen or organize donations at a food pantry. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for opportunities.
2. Order a pizza for overworked healthcare staff, and deliver it with an encouraging note or drawing.
3. Organize a [food drive](#) for charity or collect food donations outside your local grocery store. ***please be sure to contact any charity, food bank, and/or grocery store involved to obtain permission***
4. Offer to cook lunch or dinner for your parents once a week, to give them a break. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for some fun recipes.
5. Make homemade [dog treats](#) and donate to a local animal [shelter](#). ***please be sure to contact shelter to verify if they are accepting donations***

~ Clothe the Naked ~

1. Clean out your closets & donate items to Salvation Army, Goodwill, etc. Click [here](#) for a list of local organizations that accept donations.
2. Sew masks for those in need. Watch a 5-minute [tutorial](#) here.
3. Knit scarves, hats, or other items for charity. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for ideas.
4. Help "clothe the earth" by volunteering at [Hobb's Farm](#) in Centereach, or a local nature preserve.

~ Shelter the Homeless ~

1. Write letters to family & friends, asking for donations for a local homeless shelter. Donations could be used to make care kits. *****Please be sure to contact shelter to verify if they are accepting donations*****
2. Volunteer your time at a local homeless shelter or animal shelter.
3. Build a wooden birdhouse as a shelter for your backyard birds. Or make this version using a plastic bottle.
4. Protect our home (the environment!) by picking up litter in your neighborhood *****Please be sure to wear protective gloves*****

~ Visit the Sick & Imprisoned ~

1. Pick up groceries or run errands for someone who is currently unable to leave home because of quarantine, sickness, or disability.
2. Set up a video chat with someone in quarantine, or an elderly relative who is confined to their home. You may even want to include the rest of your family and make it a game night (check out some virtual games here and here).
3. Write letters to a nursing home resident (call a local nursing home to inquire).
4. Help bring sight to blind & low-vision people by volunteering virtually with the Be My Eyes app.
5. Send a Smile (coloring pages sent to those in need of a smile). Click link and scroll down to view project.
6. Best Buddies (become a virtual pen-pal for a young person with a developmental disability).

~ Bury the Dead ~

1. Write a sympathy card or make a special gift for a family who has recently lost a loved one.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

~ Instruct the Ignorant & Counsel the Doubtful ~

1. Help a friend or sibling with their homework.
2. Give music, sports, dance or other lessons to a child in your neighborhood.
3. Write an online book review for your library (click [here](#) and scroll down to view project).
4. Sachem Library Virtual Volunteering: "History of the People" project or "Muttigrees: Adoption Tails" project (click [here](#) & scroll down to view projects).
5. Volunteer to help a teacher with odd jobs before or after school.
6. Organize a Jeopardy game to help siblings/friends study for an exam.
7. The Book Fairies (collect & sort book donations for children).

~ Admonish the Sinner ~

1. Start a petition on [change.org](#) to advocate for a cause you believe in.
2. Write a letter to an elected official, your school principal, or other leader. Highlight an issue in our country, state, or community that you believe needs attention. Letter should be respectful and should clearly state 1) where you think the problem lies, and 2) any ideas you have for how this issue could be improved in future. *****Please attach a copy of your letter to the community service log that you will submit to the office*****
3. Sit down with your family members and brainstorm to come up with a list of your family's most important values (e.g. "listen to each other," "do what you're asked without complaining," "make time for prayer," "ask for help when you need it," etc.). Make a poster listing these family values, decorate, and put it up in your home as a daily reminder.

~ Bear Wrongs Patiently & Forgive Offenses ~

1. Write a card or make a call to a friend/family member who has hurt you in some way, to express your forgiveness.
2. Make a list of people who have wronged you, who you find it hard to get along with, or public figures/organizations you believe are doing evil in the world. Say a decade of the rosary each day to pray for the people on this list. Do this for one week (time will be about 1 hr total).

~ Comfort the Sorrowful ~

1. Spend time playing with a friend or sibling who is bored/upset.
2. Write letters to family & friends, asking for donations to Operation Smile (\$240 provides a complete surgery for one child).
3. Spreading Positivity One Sticky-Note at a Time
4. Send artwork and/or handmade cards to a hospital or nursing home.
5. Make a special gift for a family member or friend who is struggling. Click here and here for some DIY gift ideas.
6. Buy a ring of index cards and decorate each card with artwork, a Bible verse, fun quote, or write something you love about the recipient. Give the finished craft to a family member, friend, or teacher.

~ Pray for the Living and the Dead ~

1. Visit a graveyard. Look at the names and pray for the people buried there.
2. Make & decorate a poster listing family, friends, acquaintances, and other intentions you would like to pray for each day. Put up the poster in your house.
3. Write your own prayer for each Sunday during the season of Lent (February 17 - March 31st). Each prayer should focus on praying for a specific person you know, asking God's help with a need your family has, or thanking Him for a

blessing He has given your family in the past year. Say the prayers together as a family each Sunday.

4. Create a prayer altar for your family.
5. Organize a prayer time with your family/friends to pray for all those who have died this past year. Prayer could include the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Memorare, litany of the saints, Bible readings, and/or your own list of intercessions to pray for. Choose one or two of your favorite hymns to play for reflection.

~ Other Ideas ~

1. Offer free services such as gardening, shoveling, car wash, babysitting, grocery shopping, pet care, or cleaning to a neighbor or friend.
2. Participate in a walkathon to benefit your favorite charity.
3. Letters for Our Troops or Operation Gratitude
4. Volunteer at the 2021 Long Island Fair in Bethpage, NY
5. Organize a car wash for charity (this is a group project).

"I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do." -Jana Stanfield



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Record of Confirmation Service Hours

(a minimum of 6 hours needs to be completed by Sept. 2021)

Name: _____

Activity	Date	How Long?	Supervisor's Signature

Please turn over for more space (if needed) >>>>>>>

Activity	Date	How Long?	Supervisor's Signature