

9th Grade Service Experience with our parish Senior Citizens

As part of the service/justice component for Faith Formation, 9th graders will spend a full year, entering into a relationship with a senior citizen or couple. Each 9th grader will join a small group of four students and an adult leader and participate in seven service nights with their assigned senior citizen/couple. Each service night will start at 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoon. At 5:30 pm all youth will gather back at the church for prayer, reflection, and dinner concluding at 6:00 pm. Youth are encouraged to stick around for Mass at 6:00 pm. There will NOT be normal class from 7:30-9 pm on the service days except on Sunday, January 12 when there is class following.

We have an incredible opportunity to make a radical difference in the lives of the senior citizens that we are entering into relationship with. Most of these men and women, live alone and have limited visitors and transportation opportunities. The main thing they desire is someone to visit with them and show them that they care. Youth will also have the ability to do some light chores around the house.

All nights, 9th graders will meet at St. Joe's at 4:00 pm and ride over to the house together. Each small group will have a parent leader who will be in charge of transportation and will remain with the students at all times. These leaders will also complete the safe environment training and background check through the Crookston Diocese.

Each one of the residents are St. Joe's parishioners and have agreed to participate in this service experience for the year. For the safety of each youth, no youth should have any private contact with the residents outside of the specific service dates either by direct or indirect contact and without the group leader being present.

****We recognize that not all students will be able to make each one of the seven service nights however to build a relationship with the residents we ask that you let your leader know 2 weeks in advance of your upcoming absence and that you miss less than two service nights.**

The service nights are as follows:

11/3/19 -Raking Leaves

Please dress according to the weather. Youth should wear jeans or work pants. Bring work gloves and a rake. Youth will be working on building trust this first service night and will not be entering the residents house unless they are invited inside.

12/15/19 -Caroling

Youth will remain with the large group this night and take a school bus around to each resident's house to sing a few carols. Please dress warm and wear something with Christmas cheer.

1/12/20–Winter Traditions

Youth will visit with their residents in their homes, spending time with them and talking about Winter Traditions.

2/9/20–Valentine's Day Themed

Youth will visit with their residents in their homes, spending time with them and doing a Valentine's Day activity.

3/08/20 -Visiting and playing cards

Youth will visit with their residents in their homes and spend time playing cards.

4/5/20 –Making and delivering Easter Baskets

Youth will bring items to fill Easter Baskets and deliver one to each of their residents. They will then spend time together talking about Easter traditions.

5/3/20 -Senior Citizens End of the year celebration

Youth will invite their Senior Citizens to an End of the Year Celebration back at St. Joe's where they will provide a dinner and spend a special evening together.