

**Service & Catholic Culture Guidelines 2021-2022**

As you prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation, which is to be *strengthened* in the **spirit** and **Truth** of God, it is necessary to learn first-hand what it means to *serve* others, especially when it is out of your comfort zone.

Choosing to do something that makes us a little uncomfortable is a very effective way of becoming a stronger and better person, especially when it's for another person. Like working out, it takes time, patience, and the willingness to be a little uncomfortable, but in the end, there's a payout. Fortunately for us, the Church gives us a guideline for what kinds of service we should be doing to be the best people we can be and to help others in the best way.

When we feel at a loss for how to help other people and how to serve, we can turn to the Works of Mercy. There are two types of works of mercy; those that help with bodily needs called the corporal works of mercy (corporal, from the Latin corpus which means body) and those that help with spiritual needs called the spiritual works of mercy.

**For your service projects, you will be required to perform:**

- **Eight hours** within the 4 of the 5 categories works of mercy and 4 Catholic culture experiences before you are confirmed. The works of mercy will be both spiritual and corporal. Please have your service hours cover 4 out of the 5 options below.
- You will need to complete your service hours two months before the Confirmation Ceremony.
- I have provided a list of all of the works of mercy with suggestions for your service projects.

<p><b>Types of service that WILL count for service projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with any organization that helps with the poor or struggling in society<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Food kitchens</li><li>○ Charities</li><li>○ Homeless shelters</li><li>○ Etc.</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>Types of service that WILL NOT count for your service projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any odd job work for family members like yard or housework for an elderly relative, etc.</li><li>• Helping younger siblings with something, like homework or sports practice</li><li>• Work in animal shelters</li></ul>
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Below you will find listed the corporal and spiritual works of mercy with corresponding suggestions for works of service. These are merely suggestions to give you some ideas. Please reach out to me if you aren't sure how to qualify a work that you might want to do that doesn't appear on this list at [mmckeon@stannpv.org](mailto:mmckeon@stannpv.org) or 913-660-1116.

#### Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the Hungry/Give Drink to the Thirsty
  - Service sites: Soup Kitchen, food pantry/ Harvesters, Inner city Missions, etc.
- Welcome the Stranger
  - Service sites: Volunteering at places that help refugees /Habitat for humanity, Alexandra's House, Cherith Brook, Veterans Community Project, etc.
- Clothe the Naked
  - Service Sites: Habitat for Humanity, Turnstyles, Happy Bottoms, etc.
- Visiting the Sick
  - Service Sites: St Ann Homebound – contact [patcenter@stannpv.org](mailto:patcenter@stannpv.org)
- Visiting the Imprisoned
  - Service Sites: Compassion Prison Project (This entails writing a letter(s) to prisoners, which will be arranged through Youth Ministry – contact [mmckeon@stannpv.org](mailto:mmckeon@stannpv.org))

#### Spiritual Works of Mercy (that will count for service hours):

- Instruct the Ignorant
  - Service sites: Helping in the School of Religion younger grade classrooms – contact [smeeker@stannpv.org](mailto:smeeker@stannpv.org)
- Counsel the doubtful
  - Service sites: 40 days for life or Life Change
- Pray for the Living and the Dead
  - Service Sites: Attending a nonfamily funeral or altar serving
- Comforting the sorrowful
  - Service Opportunity: Making a homecooked meal or sending a letter to someone experiencing grief/suffering

Please complete a service hours' timesheet which can also be found on the St. Ann website under Confirmation (<https://stannpv.org/confirmation>). Please submit this service hours' timesheet form through google classroom, email it to [mmckeon@stannpv.org](mailto:mmckeon@stannpv.org), or by handing in a paper copy.

You can of course choose other things besides the suggestions provided for your service projects as long as you can provide a clear line of reasoning explaining why your service was either a spiritual or corporal work of mercy.

Please keep us informed as to the projects that you are choosing to fulfill your service hours. Some projects may not qualify for hours (e.g., working in a dog shelter is an awesome thing to do, but would not be accepted as a work of mercy, as persons are the object of the works of mercy and animals are not persons, therefore, etc.).

If you would like clarification for any of these types of service and why they are not allowed, please feel free to call me at 913-660-1116 and I'd be happy to chat with you about it!

#### **FOUR CATHOLIC CULTURE EXPERIENCES**

The following list of activities is a requirement for finishing the Confirmation formation program at St. Ann Parish. After finishing each of these requirements you need to answer a google form, which will be found on google classroom.

- **Attend these four events and turn in two months before you are confirmed AND answer a google form about EACH of your experiences found in google classroom**
  - Attend a baptism at St. Ann or go to the cathedral for a scavenger hunt. (go to google classroom for more details)
  - Go to a cemetery to pray for those who have died.
  - Go to a religious order: other options meet with a religious order via video chat or phone. (Go to the St Ann website under confirmation for guidelines or google classroom for more details)
  - Go to a Catholic culture celebration, or students will do a catholic celebration at home (go to google classroom for more details)

We would like you to experience many different aspects of the faith as well as seeing different ways we are able to pray. Since these can be overwhelming tasks to complete, we allow the completion of services hours and the Catholic Cultural Experiences through both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We also have opportunities to complete service hours and Catholic Cultural Experiences through Youth Ministry, so be on the lookout for those!

If you have any questions feel free to email or call me. [mmckeon@stannpv.org](mailto:mmckeon@stannpv.org) or 913-660-1116