

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church
Confirmation Preparation: Discipleship Hours based on The Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy

*Feed the hungry ~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ Clothe the naked ~ Give shelter to the homeless ~
Visit the sick ~ Visit the imprisoned ~ Bury the dead*

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

*Counsel the doubtful ~ Instruct the ignorant ~ Admonish the sinner ~ Comfort the afflicted ~
Forgive offenses ~ Bear wrongs patiently ~ Pray for the living and dead*

Who is responsible for completing discipleship hours?

Confirmation candidates in the 7th and 8th grades at St. Francis are required to participate in hours of service for others.

How much time should be spent completing the *Works of Mercy* discipleship hours?

Young Catholics preparing for Confirmation should offer their time and talents for others sacrificially; therefore, it is recommended that each Confirmation candidate at St. Francis de Sales strive to perform a minimum of **20 hours** of service ***focused on both the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy***. Many candidates will complete more hours than the required number over the course of two years.

What are some examples of service that can be completed at this time?

Due to the current health emergency, this is a decision for both parents and candidates to discuss. Based on personal family situations and limited opportunities for service within the community, you may need to think more creatively. Your service for others ***does not need to be complicated***, but should be ***generous*** and ***thoughtful***...Some simple ideas are listed below:

***Raking leaves ~ Snow shoveling ~ Blessing Bags for the homeless ~ Write letters or cards to the lonely
~ Behind the scenes work for a food pantry or clothing drive ~
~ Plan a special dinner or treat to celebrate a saint's feast day ~
An Hour of Adoration for a special intention ~ Organize a Family Rosary ~ Attend a Holy Hour
~ Learn the Divine Mercy Chaplet and teach your family ~
Practice prayers with a younger sibling ~ Prepare dinner for a new mom or lonely relative
~ Make a phone call to someone who might be lonely or need a friend ~
~ Spend time learning about a saint or Bible story, and then share it with others in a creative way ~***

Is there service that would NOT fulfill the requirement?

*Please remember that other service projects such as school assignments, club or team projects, or current family responsibilities (i.e. cleaning your own room/making your own bed/current chores, etc.) **would not fulfill this service requirement.***

Is there a written assignment?

Yes. The candidate should document the completed service on the *Confirmation Discipleship Form* for each act of service. Each Discipleship Form must be signed by a parent.

The religious education office is happy to keep the forms on file (which will be presented to Father Gould at the time of the Confirmation interview), but the candidate and parents are required to keep track of hours needed to fulfill the service requirement.

What information will be needed for the Discipleship Form?

Student Name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Number of hours completed: _____

Explain what specific work you did and where?...

How does your service relate to one of the Spiritual or Corporal Works of Mercy?...

Did your service deepen your relationship with Jesus? How?...

When are discipleship hours due?

Students will turn in all documented discipleship hours to Father Gould at the Confirmation interview, prior to receiving the Sacrament. If students prefer that the Religious Education Office keep these service hours filed, we are happy to help. Students are also responsible for keeping track of their hours throughout the preparation period.