



WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO SERVICE PROJECTS?



Every Christian, of every age, is to be involved in service to their fellow men and women. Jesus taught us that we must reach out and serve because faith without works is dead. (See James 1:22) We are all challenged to be Jesus to and for those in need. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus tells us, "I tell you the truth, 'Whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me'."

• WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR OUR JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM?

You are asked to do a *minimum* of three service projects during the year. One of them should be a "long term" project. That means that it should be something you do on a regular basis, perhaps 5-6 times throughout the year. Some examples of this might be helping out as a server for our week day and Sunday liturgies, or as an aide in the Faith Formation program for the preschool or kindergarten classes, or visiting someone in a nursing home regularly. Perhaps you will choose to help collect food and donations monthly for the People's Resource Center. For some, perhaps you have helped or plan on helping with Vacation Bible School or went on the mission trip with Catholic Heart Workcamp. Talk to your parents or Shepherd for other ideas or if you have questions.

The other two service projects can be "short term" or one-time events with one being done as a family or with your Shepherd group or with a group of friends and the other one can be done either with a group or you can work on your own. We will be organizing some Service Saturdays/Sundays for your family or group to serve, so watch for those throughout the year. Other opportunities will be scheduled so that you can just sign up to help, or you can find something on your own as a way to serve others (not in your family) with something that you normally do not already do or should already be doing. Some examples of these might be helping make lunches for PADS or raking leaves for senior citizens in the fall or shoveling snow in the winter for someone who could use your help. Helping out with an event that needs volunteers at church or school is another example of projects you can become involved in. Don't worry, we'll be posting ways that service is needed all throughout the year so you'll have plenty of opportunities! The important thing is to do something outside of your normal, everyday activities. Try something new. See what talents you have to share. Find out what you are good at and what interests you or what you may not be good at and what doesn't interest you. God calls each one of us to follow Him on our own path every day of our lives (not just when we are in junior high preparing for Confirmation and it's required!) and He gives each one of us the tools or talents necessary. Discover and nurture these gifts as you explore your service opportunities and then continue to serve because that is a big part of who a Catholic Christian is.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN I'VE SERVED?

There is a Service Project Report Form in your folder. Whenever you finish a service project you should fill in the report. These should be turned in to your Shepherd (see Homework Assignment Packet for the dates these are due).

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Your Shepherd will discuss this with you during your group meetings. Talk with your parents or other family members and friends about what they may want to do to, perhaps you can join them. Watch the church bulletin for opportunities as well as special flyers from BLAST, the Middle School Youth Group or from the Faith Formation Office. Look around in your neighborhood for people who could use your help. Take a look at the Service Ideas flyer in your folder. The important thing is that you do something as a Catholic, not just "say" you are a Catholic. Remember the old adage, "Actions speak louder than words"? Let everyone know you are a Christian by your love!





ST. MICHAEL JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY



SERVICE IDEAS FOR 2011-2012

As part of our 7th and 8th Grade preparation for Confirmation program, we recognize the need to help you, our students, to actively integrate the Gospel message of service into your daily lives. We are challenging you to live your Baptismal commitment, which is to be Jesus to others, especially to those in need. A commitment to service is designed to stretch your Catholic experience by encouraging you to minister to others, build community with others, and to gain knowledge of our Catholic faith in action. Christian service is not only about completing a requirement for Confirmation. We are called to reach out to our brothers and sisters in the name of Christ. Adults and students alike should be serving others as living examples of our faith and of our participation in the Body of Christ.

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Here are some service ideas to get you started:

- ✓ **ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN/CANDIDATE PROGRAM** - This is an opportunity to correspond and perhaps meet a seminarian (a man who is studying to be a priest) or a candidate (a woman preparing to be a sister), and encourage them letters, e-mails, or even homemade goodies. Great project for one individual or for your entire shepherd group. Contact Fr. Burke Masters at 815-834-4004 or at frburke@dioceseofjoliet.org.
- ✓ **AIDES FOR RE CLASSES** - Helping Sunday mornings or especially needed are Monday afternoons in a kindergarten or preschool RE class. (Many positions are often filled by the beginning of August, but call if you are interested to see what is available.) Contact: Mrs. Hickey at 630-462-5046 or jenhickey@stmichaelcommunity.org
- ✓ **ALTER SERVER** - Training will begin in October for new servers. Contact: Mr. Kinsley at 630-690-1329 or rkinsle@aol.com or Mr. Carr at 630-665-0994 or carrgeojo@gmail.com.
- ✓ **Bingo at Wheaton Care Center** - 6 to10 middle school students are needed to assist the residence of the Wheaton Care Center (1325 Manchester Road) on Saturday, September 24th from 2-4 PM as they play Bingo. (This is part of the St. Michael Parish annual Service Day options.) They will be supervised by one or two of the regular St. Michael adult volunteers to this facility. Teens should meet at the Center around 1:50 and be picked up around 4:00 PM. Any questions, contact Mr. Lou Sarnelli: 630-699-9952 or lsarnelli@att.net or Mr. David Balane: 630-665-8639 or dmbalane@sbcglobal.net.

- ✓ **CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP** - Two different weeks next summer are offered for this mission trip for our junior high and high school students to serve the less fortunate in Memphis, TN and Betsy Layne, KY while having fun. Packets and applications are available in the church narthex racks, in your folder, or in the Faith Formation Office. Contact: Mrs. Swanson at 630-462-5044.



- ✓ **C.L.O.W.** - Children's Liturgy of the Word needs volunteers to help during the Sunday Masses each week. Contact: Mrs. Gottlieb at 630-510-9342 or cgott511elib@sbcglobal.net or Mrs. Fahey at 630-665-6145 or faheyhouse@sbcglobal.net.
- ✓ **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** - (FMSC) is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: volunteers of all ages hand-pack meals designed specially for starving children, and FMSC ships the meals to more 50 countries around the world. Go to: <http://www.fmsc.org/> to learn more about FMSC and how you can become involved. Two dates have already been reserved for us with spots for 16 students and 4 adults - sign up to pack food on Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 9-11 AM or Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 9-11 AM. This would be ideal for a shepherd group to do together. **To volunteer for these two dates register online at fmsc.org and use the Join Code: 150882.**
- ✓ **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** - (FMSC) Also needed are monetary donations. Buy the mini M&M's and save the container. Fill the empty container with quarters and we'll give all donations to FMSC. Each filled container holds \$14 worth of quarters which will feed a family of 5 for TEN DAYS!!!! Contact: Mrs. Swanson at 630-462-5044 or cathyswanson5044@gmail.com
- ✓ **HUMANITARIAN SERVICE PROJECT** - Collect items and prepare birthday-in-a-boxes for shipment to needy children in DuPage and Kane Counties. Each box contains items for a birthday including things like cake mix and frosting, candles, "goodie bags," school supplies, small toys, books, etc. Great project for individuals or groups! For specific details and other ideas contact: 630-221-8340 or e-mail: hsp@humanitarianservice.org.
- ✓ **INTER-FAITH FOOD PANTRY AND PEOPLE'S RESOURCE CENTER** Help with the collection of money and food items before Mass on the 3rd Sunday of every month. (This can be done every month or as a one-time project.) Contact: Mr. Carr at 630-665-0994.
- ✓ **LETTERS AND PRAYERS FOR A 2ND GRADER** 2nd grade names are available on Enrollment Sunday on October 23rd and October 24th, 2011. Take one of the colored pictures of a child that will be receiving their First Reconciliation and First Communion this year from the baskets after each of the Sunday liturgies. Pray for that child REGULARLY and send them





little notes of encouragement, perhaps a treat on St. Nicholas Day, Christmas, Easter, after they have made their First Reconciliation on Dec. 11, 2010 and First Communion on May 7, 2011. Be creative. Children love receiving mail. Contact: Mrs.

Glaz at 630-462-5043 or mglaz@stmichaelcommunity.org

✓ **LOOK FOR THINGS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD** -

- For example, if there is an elderly couple or single mom in the neighborhood, volunteer to take their garbage cans to the curb every week and bring the empty ones back after the garbage has been collected. Remember, to be dependable and don't "forget."
- Offer to baby sit one afternoon a week, a month, or as needed (should be at least 5-6 times) free of charge for someone who needs a break, but would have trouble affording to pay.
- Offer to shovel the snow for an elderly neighbor. Tell them that whenever it snows, they should just plan on you showing up - and then be there. Don't wait. Don't accept money for this. If they insist upon paying you, tell them to give it to their favorite charity or to their church.
- Ask in the office or classroom of your school. Perhaps there are things that you can volunteer for once a week - cleaning the boards on Fridays, setting up for basketball or volleyball games or other sporting events, or helping to put the chairs and equipment away after an event.
- Find out when the priests, deacons, teachers, administrators, catechists, and shepherds, etc. birthdays are. Make them a homemade card and tell them how important they are and what they mean to you. Be sure to send it on time throughout the year.



- ✓ **MASS ESCORTS** - The DuPage County Convalescent Center needs help assisting residents in wheel chairs to and from their 10:00 AM Mass in the Center each Sunday. You will be needed from approximately 9:00 - 11:15 AM. Contact Mrs. Kramer at 630-668-6662.

✓ **MINISTERS OF THE WORD (LECTORS)** - If you are interested in this ministry you will be trained to lector for the 8:00 AM Saturday morning Mass and asked to lector about once a month beginning in October. For training and scheduling contact: Mrs. Swanson 630-462-5044.

- ✓ **OPERATION GRATITUDE** - Help support our troops overseas by sending care packages to those serving in the military overseas. Check out www.opgratitude.com for suggestions. Also a great place to look for ideas for your entire shepherd group.

- ✓ **PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)** - Two Shepherd groups each month are needed to prepare 25 lunches for the PADS shelter on the second Monday of October through April and to help clean up the PADS site on the following Tuesday morning from 7:00 - 7:30 AM. Shepherds should sign up your group on the list posted on the Catechists and Shepherd supply cabinet door in the first floor stairwell of the Faith Center. Contact: Mrs. Swanson 630-462-5044 or cathyswanson5044@gmail.com

- ✓ **PULL TABS FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE** - Collect pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House by Loyola Hospital. This house is the "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving medical care. These can be collected throughout the school year. Box together all the tabs collected and deliver or mail them to the Ronald McDonald House in June. (Directions to the drop off site can be obtained from the web site: www.rmhcni.org)



- ✓ **RAKING LEAVES FOR SENIORS** - Sign up as a group to rake leaves for our seniors and shut-ins on Sunday, November 6th and 13th, 2011 from 1:30 - 3:30 PM. Contact: Mrs. Swanson at 630-462-5044 or cathyswanson5044@gmail.com



- ✓ **Refugee Ministry** - Babysitters and tutors are needed when English as a Second Language classes are offered for our church refugee families. ESL is from 10:00 to 11:30 on Sundays, twice a month. Classes are usually in the Parish Center / school cafeteria. Contact: Mrs. Betsy Rothery with ESL in the subject line: dbrothery@comcast.net
- ✓ **ST. MICHAEL PARISH SERVICE DAY** - Participate in a project as a family on **Saturday, September 24th**. Serving together with the parish as a family can be lots of fun while helping someone tremendously!
- ✓ **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - Small group leaders (you must have completed 7th grade) are needed next summer for VBS which will be offered June 2012. Contact: Mrs. Glaz at 630-462-5043 or mglaz@stmichaelcommunity.org or Mrs. Hickey at 630-462-5046 or jenhickey@stmichaelcommunity.org
- ✓ **WELCOME TO YOUR HOME** - Help to celebrate a formerly homeless person moving into a place of their own by donating a Kitchen or Bath Basket to help them get started in their new home. Contact Ann Rowland for suggestions on what is needed. This is a great opportunity for individuals, families, and groups to get involved with a fun and very meaningful project. Sponsored by DuPage PADS. Contact: Ann Rowland at arowland@dupagepads.org

There really are endless ways to serve. Be creative and come up with your own ideas. What are you interested in? How can you become involved? What would you like to experience? Often a phone call will clear up any questions you may have about getting involved. Just about everyone loves a volunteer. Many opportunities arise throughout the school year that are not listed here. Keep checking with your Shepherd and the Faith Formation Office.



Lord, help us to be your heart and hands for one another!

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