

Service Hour Program at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School

Service, while not the beginning of the Christian life, is an integral and necessary part of it. The service hour program at St. Catherine is designed, not only to teach our students the value of Christian service, but to help them learn to reflect theologically on that service. We consider the program not to be an extra-curricular activity, but a kind of lab to their religion class. There are three parts to the program: the service in which they choose to engage, a short (guided) reflection paper on that service, and the chance to share their reflection with their classmates, that they might learn from each other's experience. ***Students in grades 5-7 who have not completed all service hours by April 30th will not be able to participate in Olympic Day. Eighth graders who have not met all their service hour requirements by Confirmation Mass will not be permitted to go on their 8th grade trip to Indianapolis.***

A. The Service Hours

There are three categories of service hours: Home, Community, and Parish.

8th Grade – 30 hours (Students must have at least 10 hours in each of the three categories.)

7th Grade – 18 hours (Students must have at least 6 hours in each of the three categories.)

6th Grade – 12 hours (Students must have at least 4 hours in each of the three categories.)

5th Grade – 6 hours (Students must have at least 2 hours in each of the three categories.)

B. The Reflection Paper

Students will be required to complete three Personal Reflection Papers throughout the school year. The first Personal Reflection Paper is due by the end of October; the second is due by the end of January; and the third by the end of April. Students should choose the experience that had the most profound effect on them personally to use as the basis for their paper. Students do not need to complete all of the service hours for each due date prior to writing their Personal Reflection Paper. Each Personal Reflection Paper should answer the following questions:

1. What service opportunity did you choose?
2. Why did you choose this particular service opportunity?
3. Describe in some detail what happened while providing this service opportunity, including your specific role and responsibilities.
4. Why did you choose *to write about* this service experience?
5. As you reflect on your experience, what Scripture passage, homily, book, Religion lesson, prayer, or past experience comes to mind?
6. What did you learn from this experience? How are you different because of this service experience? For example, how did this experience change you; what did you learn about those you served; what is something someone else could benefit from knowing?

C. The Sharing of Reflections

Students will have an opportunity to share their reflections with the other students in their Religion class; these reflections then become the basis for discussion and conversation.

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School Service Hour Possibilities

Home

Child-sit for free.

Clean garage, attic or basement and collect toys that are in good shape to give to a local shelter.

Help siblings with homework.

Host a family game night.

Load and unload the dishwasher.

Make a meal for your family.

Rake leaves, shovel snow, clean up trash around yard.

Read a book to a younger child in your family.

Take on an additional chore.

Weed your family garden.

Write a thank-you note to your mail carrier, fire or police department.

Community

Clean up trash in your neighborhood or local park.

Gather clothing from your neighbors and donate it to a local shelter.

Help fill eggs for the Fort Thomas Easter Egg Hunt.

Help make meals at the Parish Kitchen in Covington.

Help out at the Hosea House.

Make "I Care" kits with combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. for the homeless.

Make a care package for an elderly or shut-in person.

Pick up groceries or medicine for an elderly person.

Rake leaves, shovel snow, clean gutters, or wash windows for a senior citizen.

Read books or the newspaper on tape for visually impaired people.

Send a letter to one of America's veterans or overseas soldiers.

Teach a senior friend how to use a computer and the Internet.

Visit residents of Madonna Manor.

Visit senior citizens at a nursing home.

Volunteer at Mother Seraphina's Ministries (Rose Garden Mission.)

Volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul.

Volunteer at your local animal shelter.

Volunteer to help at a Special Olympics Event.

Work at Fort Thomas Hullabaloo in October.

Walk a neighbor's dog or pet sit while they are on vacation.

When visiting someone in a hospital, talk to someone that doesn't have many visitors.

Work at Be Concerned.

Parish

Attend Eucharistic Adoration during the summer months.

Help at door and /or concession for Boosters.

Help at St. Catherine of Siena After School Program.

Help at St. Catherine of Siena sporting events.

Help at the Colt Classic Tournament.

Help clean the church or church grounds

Help a teacher in their classroom.

Make get well cards for parish members.

Volunteer as an Open House School Tour Guide for new families.

Work the fish fry.

Work the parish festival.

Write letters to service men and women from our parish.