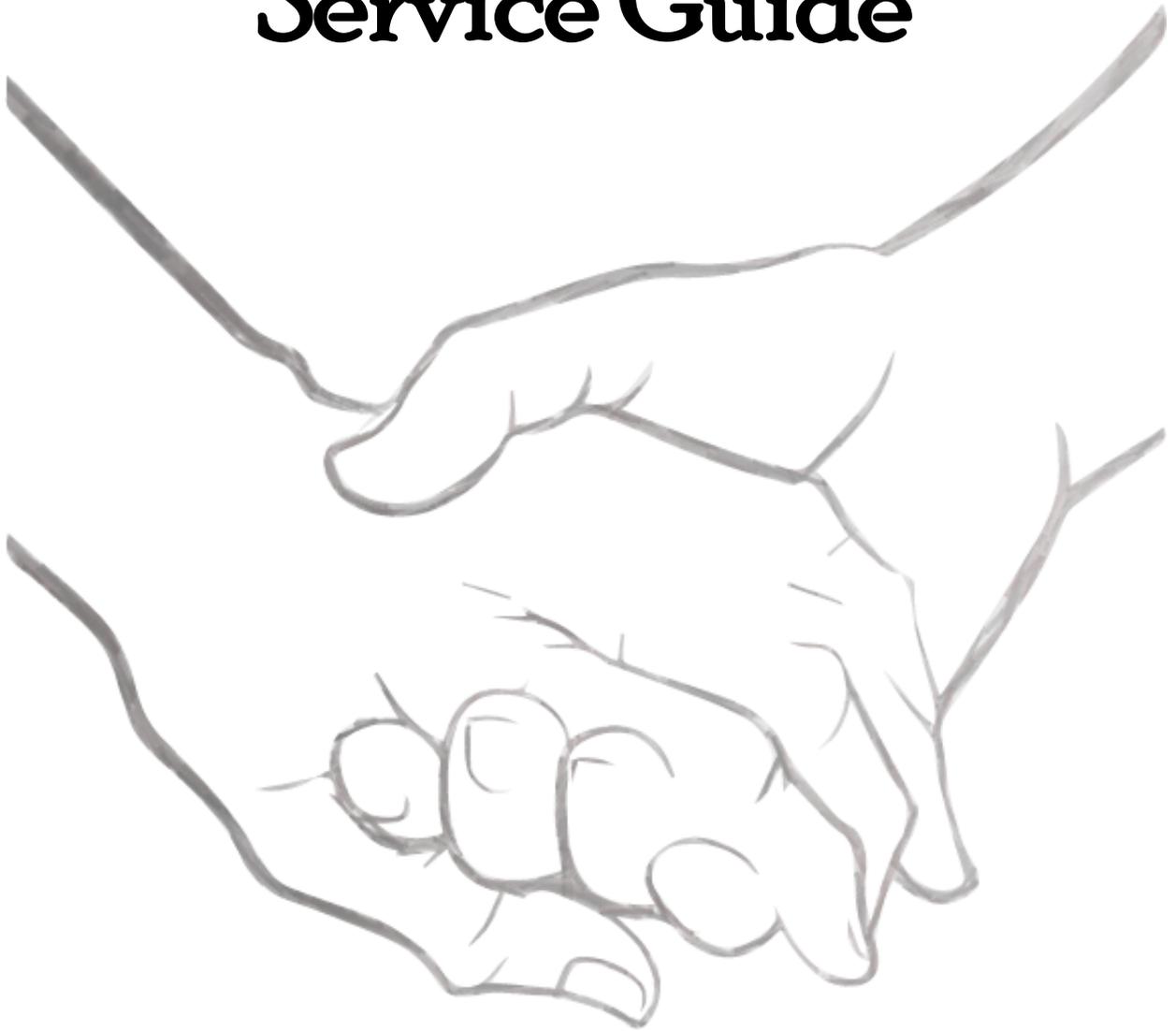


Confirmation Preparation Service Guide



**Matthew 25:
Mercy in Action**



“And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:40

We are commanded countless times in scripture to love and serve one another. Our love of God should compel us to serve those in need in our society. It is not enough to love only our families and our friends; and it is not enough to keep Christ within our private lives. We must reach beyond the boundaries of what is easy and respond to the needs of others in our community. We recognize the presence of Christ in all people, especially the poor, needy, marginalized, disadvantaged, and those who suffer. Those we serve become Christ to us, and we are given the opportunity to become Christ to those we serve.

Confirmation associates you more closely with the mission of Church, and, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, helps you to bear witness to the Christian faith in word and deed. The grace of the Holy Spirit, manifested to us in the Sacrament of Confirmation, unleashes for us our God-given talents and gifts, our own special and unique ways of loving others as we bear witness to our faith.

As you select service experiences, keep in mind your interests, desires, gifts, and talents. God has given you these gifts and talents so that you can give them back to Him in service to others. Your service should be meaningful, challenging, and filled with the opportunity to grow in the love of Christ. *Choose opportunities that you will enjoy.*

To further guide your choices, focus on the corporal works of mercy as outlined in Matthew 25:35-40. Pope Francis once wrote, “At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives.” The corporal works of mercy help us to encounter and better understand the mercy of God in order to live as witnesses of mercy, love, and joy.

During your year of confirmation preparation, you will serve as a witness to your faith through the following types of experience:

- ✓ **Parish/Liturgical Ministry**
- ✓ **Corporal Works of Mercy**
- ✓ **Community Service**
- ✓ **Small Group Service**

As you serve others in these areas with an open and willing heart, you allow God to create a *heart of service* in you, so that you become a Catholic who truly knows, loves, and serves God and God’s people.

This year, we ask that you complete 25 hours of service. After completing your hours, you will complete a Service Reflection Form to help foster awareness of your own gifts, the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and your role in the mission of the Church.

More information explaining each type of service experience and how to complete the Service Reflection is below. Be sure to reach out to the Youth Ministry Office or your small group leaders if you have any questions or concerns. God bless you and your ministry!

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Parish/Liturgical Ministry

Each of us is called to be an active member of our faith communities and to give our time and talents to support parish life. To help build your commitment to the parish community, you will choose a ministry that you can live out throughout your confirmation preparation year, and hopefully, beyond. These experiences are not meant to be one-time events, but active ministries. Below are just some of the parish ministry needs you can help to fulfill:

- Usher or Greeter
- Choir Member or Instrumentalist
- Lector
- Altar Server
- Fundraising Events: rummage sales, bake sales, craft fairs, etc.
- Hospitality Minister
- Gardening/Landscaping Help
- Faith Formation Assistant
- Children's Liturgy of the Word Assistant
- Prayer and Worship Committee Member
- Office Help
- Church Cleaning/Decorating

Many parish life opportunities can be found in the bulletin or on our SignUpGenius page, so check it often to get information and to sign up.

Corporal Works of Mercy

To help you answer Jesus' call to serve the least, you will complete at least two service experiences that speak directly to the following Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Give alms to the poor
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Visit the sick
6. Visit the imprisoned
7. Bury the dead

Community Service

To inspire your commitment to discipleship outside your parish and church setting, you are encouraged to choose a variety of service experiences. Choose activities that already fit with your personality as well as your schedule. This is a time to explore the talents and gifts you have received from God while assessing where those gifts and talents will have the most impact.

Small Group Service

Each Confirmation Small Group will choose a service project/experience to participate in together. Teens may need to provide their own transportation for this experience. In the event you are unable to be at your Small Group's service experience, you will need to reach out the Youth Ministry Office for an alternate option, which may include joining another small group or substituting another service project done within a group or with your family members. Be sure to seek guidance from the Youth Ministry Office prior to choosing an alternate option.

Confirmation Service Reflections

For each service project/experience you choose, you will complete a Service Reflection Form. You may combine service experiences together to complete one Service Reflection Form, for example, singing in the choir on multiple Sundays would require only one form for the experience as a whole rather than a form after each Mass. You must have a minimum of two Service Reflections for Corporal Works of Mercy, at least one Service Reflection for Parish/Liturgical Ministry, and a minimum of two reflections to log your community service. You will likely have several forms to submit.

Service Reflections should be completed after each experience and no later than your final interview. You should complete a Service Reflection Form after your Small Group Service Project, as well.

To help you prepare to complete your reflections, consider the following questions:

Parish/Liturgical Ministry

- What Parish/Liturgical Ministry did you participate in this year?
- What gifts and talents did you use to assist the Church in its mission to serve others? (What led you to choose this ministry?)
- How was the Body of Christ strengthened through the service you chose?
- How did you feel as you lived out this ministry? How were the people around you affected by your service?
- What did this ministry teach you about the Church? About yourself? About God?
- How will you continue to serve your faith community after confirmation?

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Read Matthew 25:35-40. What did you do this year to *serve the least of these*?
- What gifts and talents did you use to address the corporal works of mercy?
- Which corporal works of mercy were addressed through your service?
- How did you feel as you completed your service? How were the people around you affected by your service?
- What was rewarding about this service? What was challenging?
- How did this service help you on your journey toward confirmation?
- What did this ministry teach you about the Church? About yourself? About God?
- How will you continue to follow Jesus' example after confirmation?

Community Service

- What community service did you complete? (Where, when, how many hours?)
- What gifts and talents did you use to complete this service?
- How did you feel as you completed your service? How were the people around you affected by your service?
- What was rewarding about your service? What was challenging?
- How does this service help you to reflect God's love and mercy into the world?
- How will you continue to serve God's people after confirmation?

LITURGICAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Bob Gallagher, bgallagher@ccwauk.org or 262-922-9285 for more information on how to get involved in the following Liturgical ministries:

ALTAR SERVER

Altar Servers assist the priest during Mass, including some set-up and clean-up duties. Servers are scheduled on a rotating basis. Servers must be previously trained or complete a new training if this is a new ministry area for you. It is not too late to train as an altar server!

CHOIR MEMBER, CANTOR, INSTRUMENTALIST

Choir members are required to attend rehearsals and be present to sing with the choir on specifically scheduled weekends. Choir requires a minimum commitment of a school semester, but instrumentalists are occasionally needed for specific Mass celebrations only.

LECTOR

Lectors participate in Mass by proclaiming one or both of the readings and are scheduled on a rotating basis. Training is required, and serving as a lector is considered a half-hour of service.

MASS GREETER

Mass greeters arrive a half-hour before Mass time to greet parishioners at the doors as they arrive for Mass. Greeters receive a half hour of service per Mass. Mass Greeters should use the name of the presiding priest as the contact person for this type of service.

USHERS

Ushers help to seat parishioners, take up the collection, and assist with the communion line. Some training is required. Ushering at Mass is one hour of service.

PARISH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD ASSISTANT

Children's Liturgy of the Word is an opportunity for young children to hear and explore the Sunday scripture readings. CLOW leaders either lead Children's Liturgy in the presence of an adult, or assist an adult leader. Contact Dawn Van Dorf, Child Minister, dvandorf@ccwauk.org, 262-922-9285 x2302 for more information.

FAITH FORMATION ASSISTANT

Formation aides assist an adult leader in a scheduled formation class. Aides are asked to commit to the entire formation year and will be assigned to a specific class of students in grades. Classes meet on Sunday mornings at St. Mary or Monday evenings at St. William. Contact Dawn Van Dorf, Child Minister, dvandorf@ccwauk.org, 262-922-9285 x2302 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

A variety of parish needs comes up during the year, such as help with decorating churches, Vacation Bible School, Stations of the Cross, etc. Watch the bulletin and SignUpGenius for these opportunities.

AREA ORGANIZATIONS

CAPUCHIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Capuchin Community services supports the House of Peace and the St. Ben's Community Meal Program. Volunteers help the Friars serve the poor, homeless and hungry.

Contact: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org

DONNA LEXA ART CENTER

Provides art programs for students with disabilities and elderly. Volunteers are vital to helping staff provide individual attention to its students. An art background is not necessary. Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, 262-521-2292

ERAS WAUKESHA

Provides services to elderly and disabled people in the area that need landscaping and winter snow shoveling. Help is also needed for senior socialization, birthday card program, and special events. Contact: Volunteer manager at 262-549-3348, volunteermanager@ERAsWaukesha.org.

GREEN POWER GARDEN

This garden is a community project to provide fresh produce to the Hope Center and the Food Pantry. Help is needed in the spring, summer, and fall, with planting, weeding, and harvesting food. Contact Molly Llanas, 262-951-6686, bucketqueen@sbcglobal.net

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE

The ReStore loves volunteers and couldn't exist without them! Many opportunities exist from heavy lifting to assisting customers to graphic design. Contact: 262-309-6025 or email restore@hfhwaukesha.org

HEBRON HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY AND SIENNA HOUSE

Hebron House of Hospitality was founded by volunteers and they continue to be an important part of the culture and services provided to the homeless. Each year over 500 volunteers serve meals, help with maintenance, provide hours of administration support, help out at celebrations and become part of who we are and what we do. Contact Jennifer at jrowedder@hebronhouse.org.

HOPE CENTER

Hope Center is a non-profit organization that has been serving the basic needs of financial assistance, food, and clothing in Waukesha County for more than twenty years. Help is needed in the Clothing Shop, kitchen, and office. For more information on how to help, visit the website, <http://www.hopecenterwi.org>, or call 262-549-8726.

KATY'S KLOSET

Katy's Kloset is a nonprofit lending library that accepts donations of good, used durable medical equipment for children and adults. This equipment can be borrowed by those in need. Katy's Kloset has no paid staff, just a dedicated group of volunteers. Call to discuss volunteer opportunities at 262-746-9034.

LA CASA DE ESPERANZA

Assistance for the Hispanic community to achieve full social and economic participation in society. Volunteers needed for day care, elderly assistance, tutoring and general office. Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, 262-547-0887 or visit the web site www.lacasadeesperanza.org

LINDEN GROVE BINGO

Teens are needed to assist the residents in marking their cards and choosing prizes from the prize tray. After bingo, teens are needed to help clean up and help residents return to their rooms. Teens are asked to bring five prizes for the residents, such as sugar free hard candies, small lotion or perfume bottles, seasonal window clings, or sugar free candy bars. Watch SignUpGenius for Bingo opportunities.

OAK HILL TERRACE

Oak Hill Terrace is a Senior Living Community. Check out the many needs the residents have and choose how you can help.

Contact: Susan Banski, 262-548-1457

RETZER NATURE CENTER

A nature park with exhibit center and classrooms. Help is needed for cleanup, Apple Harvest Festival in the fall, and at other activities during the year. Visit waukeshacounty.gov/retzernaturecenter

SALVATION ARMY

The Waukesha Salvation Army serves people throughout Waukesha County every single day. Dedicated volunteers are vital to our providing needed assistance and valued community service. Help is needed to sort food donations, pack food baskets, sort toy donations and help serve meals. Contact: Carissa Cornwell, 262-547-7367 ext. 231

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

The Salvation Army's most visible, well-known outreach is the cordial bell-ringer who greets donors near our famous Red Kettles, especially at Christmastime. To sign up for this service, visit the Salvation Army's website at registertoring.com.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

There are a number of sports in which the developmentally disabled participate, including softball, swimming, bowling, track and field, gymnastics and basketball. Volunteers are needed in a variety of these areas in Special Olympics, as well as in other recreational activities.

To get involved, visit the following website: www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/get-involved/volunteer/

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BACK PACK COALITION

Each year, St. Vincent de Paul hosts a backpack and school supply drive to help students in the Waukesha area. Backpack assembly and distribution is held at St. William Church. Help is needed to sort and pack supplies as well as to distribute filled back packs.

Contact: Julie McIntyre, 262-522-3240

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Vincent De Paul is involved in a number of activities that help the poor; snow shoveling, sorting, packing clothing, and packing food baskets. St. William sorts food donations after masses on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please contact SVDP voicemail at 262-547-2763 ext. 204.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The Summer Lunch Program provides a bag lunch and beverage to school age children and their parents Monday-Friday in the park behind Saratoga STEM School during the entire school summer break. Contact: Julie McIntyre, 262-522-3240, jmcintyre@svdpwaukesha.com

WAUKESHA CHRISTMAS CLEARING COUNCIL

A non-profit organization that promotes, coordinates and provides community giving to children in need during the Christmas holiday season. Help is needed to collect toys, prepare mailings and assist with the annual Toy Shop held at St. William in mid-December. Contact the Christmas Clearing Council office at 262-549-6635 in mid-October to sign up.

WAUKESHA FOOD PANTRY

Youth are needed to sort food, stock shelves and sometimes assist with distribution. Hours determined by the food pantry staff. Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, 262-542-5300