

Because Jesus lived 2,000 years ago, and because His public ministry was only 3 years long, we don't have too many instances recorded of Jesus specifically telling us what to do. But we do have record of him giving us one very specific instruction:

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. – John 13:12-17

We are specifically instructed to help others – to give of ourselves – to whoever needs help. That is why we are called to do service for our Confirmation.

Confirmation service is not an opportunity for you to count all the other things you currently do in your life – it is a challenge to do more. We know that you are busy, but we believe that, by giving you this sheet a year ahead of time, you will have ample time to contribute ten (10) acts of service to your community.

We specify “acts of service” - and not “hours of service” – because not all acts are created equally. For instance, if you walk to your elderly neighbor’s house and mow his lawn, that might not take a full hour, but it is hard work. On the other hand, if you volunteered to answer phones at the rectory on a Friday night, you would sit there for 2 hours and just play games on your phone.

We want to make sure that the acts that you perform matter, and benefit someone other than yourself. Because of this, we have decided to break down the 10 acts of service into three categories. Each candidate must complete at least two (2) in each category.

1. In parish service – this means volunteering for things like Snacks with Santa or decorating the church for Christmas – events that run here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help that need a little extra help to run smoothly. Every month you will receive an email with service opportunities from September-April
2. In town service – this means volunteering to help make your town a better place. Help out a neighbor with yardwork, let a mom and dad have a date night by babysitting (for free) their kids, volunteer to clean up a park, etc.
3. Larger community service – this means volunteering at a food bank or soup kitchen, or running a coat drive, or helping to run a charity 5K, or anything that impacts people outside of your church and local communities.

A few guidelines to consider:

1. Service cannot be performed for family members. It isn't service to help your mom do laundry or mow your grandma's lawn – you should be doing that anyway!
2. Any service done before June 1, 2016 does not count towards Confirmation service.
3. If you are doing service projects for another organization, that does not count for Confirmation. This is about going above and beyond what you normally do.

Service forms are due back by September 1, 2017. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Brian Salvatore at youth@olphoakland.org.