

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Office of Religious Education

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Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Families,

Your family registration form for the 2017-2018 Religious Education program is enclosed. Children who will be attending a Catholic school and entering 2nd grade (for Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation) or those entering 9th and 10th grade (for Confirmation in High School) in the fall must also register for the sacramental preparation classes. The registration fees for the 2016-2017 school year are as follows:

Registration Fees - Parishioners

\$125 for the first child
\$100 for each additional child

Registration Fees - Out of Parish

\$200 for the first child
\$175 for the second child

FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE JUNE 30TH, YOU MAY DEDUCT \$10 PER CHILD.

Financial assistance is available for those families who require it. Personal contact with the Pastor is mandated.

Attendance - Grades 1 and 3-8

Education in our Catholic faith is a cumulative process requiring regular class attendance. Class attendance at all classes is expected. Completion of the entire curriculum is required before registering for the next grade level. Home taught students must submit all written unit end exams before being allowed to register for the next grade.

Attendance - First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Sacramental Preparation Students

For students preparing for their First Confession and First Holy Communion, attendance at all classes and sacramental retreats is required for reception of the sacraments. Information on the sacramental preparation program and a schedule of retreat dates will be sent separately to the families.

Attendance - Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Students

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the spring, according to the Bishop's schedule. Students are eligible to participate in the Rite of Confirmation after they have met all of the preparation requirements for Confirmation, including completion of all classes. More detailed information will be provided to the families at the start of the school year.

For all grades - Attendance is also expected at all Grade Level Retreats and Seasonal Masses.

Service to Others

As Catholics, we are called to imitate Christ's example of selfless giving and loving service to others. In order to foster this attitude of discipleship in our Parish, all students are expected to complete their grade level service requirements. Additional information about the service requirements is included on the back. A program service log for grades 1-8 is included for your convenience. It can also be downloaded at sacredheartmilford.org. High school students will receive their service logs as handouts in the fall. Any services performed during the summer months should be entered on the 2017-2018 service log.

We are looking forward to another year in the ongoing faith formation of your children. Please feel free to contact either one of us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours in Christ,
Andrew Tomaski and Amy Donahue

Sacred Heart Parish Service Program

As Catholic Christians, we are called by our baptism to follow Jesus' New Commandment – “Love one another as I have loved you.” We express this love of neighbor and give glory to God through our service to others. In order to foster the desire to live in imitation of our Savior who came to serve, not to be served, there are program-wide service requirements for all students. The service program has been extremely successful in fostering this loving attitude of service in our Parish's children. Our students and their families gave approximately 3,000 hours of service to those in need in our community last year. Below we've included answers to some of the more common questions about the service program. As always, feel free to contact us directly with any questions you may have about the program.

What are the minimum service requirements by grade?

Gr. 1-2: 2 hours

Gr. 5-6: 6 hours

Gr. 3-4: 4 hours

Gr. 7-8: 10 hours

High School: 15 hours. At least 5 of the 15 total required hours are to be performed in service to our Parish. Students may complete all service hours in service to the parish.

Each student must complete the minimum required hours each year the student is in the program. All required service hours for grades 1-8 must be completed in order to register for the High School Confirmation Program.

What constitutes service?

Service is considered to be time and effort given to others in need, for which no money or gift is received. Time spent volunteering for any nonprofit organization or event sponsored by a nonprofit (walkathons, marathons to raise money for charity, etc.) would be considered service. Service performed for other youth organizations, such as scout troops, sports teams, and student councils will qualify as well. Any other service efforts, other than those activities listed above, must receive prior approval from the Religious Education office in order to qualify for a student's service time obligation.

The Religious Education office receives volunteer requests and service opportunities news from different community groups. This information is emailed to the appropriate grade levels, as received.

What is NOT considered service?

In order to ensure a consistent level of service efforts by all students, service time is defined as that time given to organizations and activities noted above. Assisting family members and neighbors with chores, completing family obligations/chores or performing services for free that you usually are paid for is not considered service. Helping a family owned or run business, marching in a parade or working on a political campaign is also not allowed as service time.

Parish Service Events and Opportunities

The Religious Education Office sponsors service events after each of the four seasonal Masses and a Family Service Event for a total of five (5) hours of service each program year. Throughout the year, there are service opportunities for students to assist the various ministries of the Parish. These are emailed to the appropriate grade levels as volunteer opportunities. Any parent who would like to suggest, plan or assist with a grade level volunteer event is invited to contact the Religious Education Office.

How do we record our service hours?

Students are asked to document their service efforts on the attached service log and return it to their CCD teacher or directly to the CCD office. Service logs must be signed by the person in charge of the event or organization for which the student has volunteered. *Parents may NOT sign their child(ren)'s service logs.*

When are service logs due?

High School service logs are due no later than March 1st. Grades 1-8 are due by April 30th. Students may begin accumulating service for the next school year once their current year's obligation is fulfilled. Students are allowed to carry hours forward one school year only through grade 8. **Confirmation service hours need to be earned during the Confirmation preparation program years.**

Please note that hours in excess of the annual requirement are not automatically carried forwarded by the Religious Education Office. All service hours for a specific school year must be recorded on the same service log. Carry forward hours should be recorded on the next school year's service log. For example, if you volunteered for 3 hours in grade 1, the student should log 2 hours on the current year's log and 1 hour on the next year's log.