

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECTS 2021-22



We are taught through the example and preaching of Jesus that as Christians we are to recognize the needs of others. Service is an essential element of our Christian faith and an important part of our religion program this year. Please read the information below and decide where you would like to volunteer.

Please contact Michael Ruzala in the Parish Offices at 835-8905 x 112 by October 19th to let us know which service project(s) you will do/ or have done already this summer.

Since the number of people needed for some of these service projects is limited, they will be filled on a first come, first to serve basis. When you assist with the event(s) you signed up for, be sure to have your service project form signed by the adult in charge of the activity.

All Confirmation service projects need to take place in a Catholic setting. Any service projects other than those listed below need to be approved before hand, in order to be certain that they meet the requirements of the Confirmation program.

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Each student is required to participate in ONE Long Term Project at St. Leo the Great Parish OR to complete a total of TWENTY HOURS (during COVID-19, something close to that is fine as long as it shows a commitment) on shorter term projects that take place in Catholic settings.

Please note that these are the minimum requirements, you are certainly welcome to do more than is required.

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PARISH ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE LONG TERM PROJECTS

If you choose one of these projects, which has a lengthier time commitment, you only need to do one. By signing up for one of these, you are committing to take part in it for the entire school year or when the program finishes for the year. **To sign up for any of these long term projects call 835-8905 x 112.**

1. **Assisting with the Religious Education Program:** During COVID-19, we need extra helpers for **sanitizing, facilitating social distancing, assisting or subbing in the classroom, and helping as needed!** The Gr. 1-6 classes are on Saturday mornings, twice a month. There is also a need for help with sanitizing after the Gr. 7-10 classes on Tuesday evenings, twice a month. We also need help after the At-Home / Sunday program meetings once a month.
2. **Maintaining the Clothing Bin:** Taking care of the clothing bin at St. Leo's one day a week from October through March. This involves making sure the clothing items are bagged, and then tossing the bags to make a pile in the back of the bin for weekly pickup. This usually takes about 15-20 minutes a day and counts for 30 mins of service per visit.
3. **Ushering:** Ushering at a Mass each weekend from October through March. We understand that you may be away some weekends, but this commitment would mean being there to usher the majority of weekends during these months. You would be able to choose which Mass time that you would like to usher— Saturday at 4 PM or Sunday at 9 or 11 AM.
4. **Children's Ministries:** Help is needed for Midwinter Recess Vacation Bible School, Family Fun Night, and Children's Liturgy of the Word. Contact Michael if interested.

5. **Sacrament Retreat Team:** The team puts on sacrament retreats for children at various times during the school year. Contact Michael if interested.
6. **Parish Office Projects to Take Home:** Data entry into a spreadsheet for upcoming parish outreaches, making craft packs for kids, cards or crafts for nursing home residents, or other projects as they arise! Contact Michael.

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SHORT TERM SERVICE PROJECTS

For those events which are not at St. Leo's, students will be required to make their own transportation arrangements, unless indicated otherwise.

1. **Religious Education Special Events:** Assisting with set up, activities and clean up for family faith. Please see the special events flyer for additional details. Call Michael Ruzala at 835-8905 x 112 to volunteer.
2. **St Luke's Mission of Mercy:** 325 Walden Avenue near Miller Street. Preparing food baskets for distribution to the poor at Thanksgiving time. Your own transportation is needed and parents are invited to stay with their children to assist with this project. Thousands of bags of food are assembled for those in need.
3. **Christmas Giving Tree:** Help may be needed in preparing gift donations ahead of Christmas time.
4. **Helping with St. Leo's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry:** Assisting with preparing and carrying bags of food for those who come to the food pantry on our pick-up day.
Date(s): TBA, but generally the 3rd Saturday of the month
Times: Late morning/ early afternoon
Call Michael Ruzala at 835-8905 x 112 to volunteer
5. **Decorating our church for Christmas and/ or Easter:** Helping with holiday decorating in the church.
Dates: TBA—Look in the bulletin for information as the dates approach. Generally Christmas decorating is done the weekend before Christmas and Easter decorating is done Good Friday evening.
Call Mr. Pat Adams at 876-5306 to volunteer.
6. **St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room:** 1298 Main St.—Helping to prepare and serve dinner to those in need or sorting clothes for the poor in the warehouse behind the dining room.
Date: Done on an individual basis—call 882-3360 to make arrangements to volunteer
Times: Saturdays from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM or on certain weekdays. You may do this as many times as you like to earn service hours.
7. **Gerard Place:** 2515 Bailey Ave, Buffalo, NY, 897-9948.
8. **Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service / Historic Holy Trinity:** 1419 Falls St. Niagara Falls, NY 14303, 299-0799, or email Marg at mdomagalski@historicNT.org

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If there is some Church-related service project other than those listed above which you would like to take part in to fulfill your service requirement, please email mruszala@stleothegreatamherst.com or call 835-8905 x 112 to let us know what you would like to do and to make certain that it fulfills the objectives of the service requirement.

If you sign up for a service project where the date was to be announced, you will be contacted with additional information as the time of the event approaches.