

April, 2016

Dear Parent(s),

Confirmation, together with Baptism and Eucharist, is one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. In Confirmation the baptized person is strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit needed to live as a mature Christian. Your son/daughter has been learning about the Catholic faith at home, in Catholic school or in religious education classes and through the parish celebrations of the liturgy.

The sacrament of Confirmation is a free gift from God and is not earned. The projects that the students must complete are meant to help them to live out their Christian call to holiness and service to others. As Catholics we must share the light of Christ with everyone we encounter. To be able to service the community and parish is a beautiful gift from God. Since our lives as Catholic Christians are based on faith in Jesus Christ, that faith must reflect itself outwardly by good works. Catholics of any age must share charity with others, as Jesus Christ loves each of us, we must love like Christ.

Since service to community and parish (caring for those who are hungry, homeless, sick, who mourn, etc.) is important for our growth in Christian holiness and love for others, not only in preparation for Confirmation. **We request that between June 2016 (after the last day of school) and January 2018 your child offers 25 hours of service to the community or parish at large, with at least 3 different service opportunities.** Parents are allowed to share in these service opportunities with their children. Students are able to help at more places when a parent is present. *The summer is a great time to work on service hours.*

The service hours log sheet can be found on the parish website

www.stjanesofeastonpa.com/childrensreligiouseducation

****Make copies of the form periodically, just in case it is lost.**

It is understood that this is volunteer time and no monetary payment should be accepted. **It is expected that children give service to their family; therefore, baby-sitting for family, helping around the house, etc. is not considered community service.**

The following are examples of service from students last year: CYO volunteering; Food banks; Health Fairs; Meals on Wheels; Nursing Homes; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Carnival or other carnivals (Parish or Community); Palmer/Forks Community Days; Public or school library volunteers; Relay for Life American Cancer Society; Safe Harbor; School/Community Fundraisers (Tricky Trays, Spaghetti Dinners, Bingo, etc.); SPCA; Special Olympics; Sports Concession Stands; Sports/Scouts Camp Volunteer; St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor; Teacher classroom setup and book sorting for the school year; Toys for Tots Drive; VBS (*St. Jane VBS accepts 8th graders through high school volunteers); YMCA; 7th & 8th Grade St. Jane Parish Poinsettia Sale; CCD volunteer; Christmas/Thanksgiving Dinner delivery volunteer.

God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Kimmel
Coordinator of Children's Religious Education

