

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL



APOSTOLIC SERVICE HANDBOOK 2019-2020

St. Joseph Catholic School, rooted in Gospel values and centered on the Eucharist, celebrates the uniqueness of each child by providing a safe, nurturing environment, promoting academic excellence, encouraging service to others, and cultivating artistic self-expression.

St. Joseph Catholic School requires middle school students to perform apostolic service in the community for the purpose of preparing students to live out the Gospel message of service and sacrifice. This program is designed to enrich both the lives of our students as well as those they serve, and to instill awareness in our students that we indeed have a responsibility to and an obligation toward all people in our world. Through service, students are the representatives of Christ helping those whom they serve remember that God cares for them. As a result of being engaged in selfless acts of giving, students derive a sense of personal satisfaction through their accomplishments and the joy of knowing that they are doing the will of God.

Encouraging students to be of service to others is at the core of what it means to be a Catholic School. *"Service is any act of giving assistance to another. It is using the gifts and talents that God has given us to help and care for others in a compassionate and friendly manner. Service is not expecting payment, but giving freely of our time, talents, and energy."*

(Cardinal Newman High School Community Service Handbook)

Requirements:

- Middle school students must complete service hours every school year.
- Logged hours must have the appropriate signatures and be submitted by the due date **each quarter**. Students who do not meet the Faith Formation Apostolic Service requirement will not be eligible for honor roll for the quarter or for the entire year regardless of their academic standing.

Grade 6—20 Hours

Grade 7—25 Hours

Grade 8—30 Hours

- All hours may be completed at school related events since some outside organizations require that children be of a certain age before working at that agency. Hours completed at outside organizations are also acceptable.
- Record service hours on the official apostolic service log sheet. Submit the official apostolic service log sheet by the due date.
- Complete the apostolic service reflection assignment and submit it by the May due date.

Ideas for Out of School Service:

- **Church ministries**--altar serving, cantor/band, hospitality for weekend Masses (Remember to check the Church bulletin for additional volunteer service opportunities.)
- **Community Service**--YMCA, Boys & Girls Club of Martin County, Martin County School District, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary (in Jupiter), Council on Aging, Mary's Shelter, and /or the Humane Society
- **Other ideas may include:** formally organized beach clean-up events, oyster bed restoration, Special Olympics, public libraries, working with the elderly, SJCS Italian Night, Pancake Breakfast with Santa, Stuart Christmas Parade

