



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Dear Parents and Guardians of Middle School Students,

God has called each of us to use our hearts and hands to serve him within our local community and beyond. To help instill this characteristic in our St. John students, we ask that middle school students (grades 6, 7, & 8 enrolled at SJE School, Religious Education, or Homeschool) engage in service projects that will challenge them to put their unique gifts and talents to the service of God, others, and the poor. Service is one of the primary ways God works in us and through us. Parents, you are always welcome to chaperone, and we hope you will consider serving alongside your child.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE HOURS POLICY

All middle school students (grades 6 through 8) are required to complete a specific number of outreach and volunteer hours depending on grade level.

Definition of “Outreach” is service provided by “serving the less fortunate outside of the community” (i.e. Food bank, soup kitchen, foster home, food pantry, etc.)

Definition of “Volunteer” is service provided by “serving within the community, school, or parish” (i.e. parish events, school events, community initiatives)

- **6th grade students: 6 outreach hours (of which up to 3 hours may include service to one's neighbors or relatives) and 1 volunteer hour.**
- **7th grade students: 6 outreach hours (of which up to 3 hours may include service to one's neighbors or relatives) and 2 volunteer hours.**
- **8th grade students: 15 outreach hours (of which up to 3 hours may include service to one's neighbors or relatives) and 3 volunteer hours.**

All students must complete their service requirements by **May 31st** each year. Students will not be allowed to carry over any service project or hours from one year to the next. A list of opportunities available under both outreach and volunteer services will be provided by the Religious Education office with the assistance of the Director of Service and Outreach. Service projects do not have to be associated with SJE Parish but prior approval is required.

Sign Up Genius available for those who would like to participate in group projects.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4BADA82DA5F85-sjemiddle>



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Suggestions for Service Projects

- Epiphany bag project (Volunteer)
- SJE Fest (Volunteer)
- Oktoberfest (Volunteer)
- Thanksgiving meal deliveries (Outreach)
- Lunch bag project (Outreach or Volunteer)
- Helping onsite at a local Food pantry (Outreach)
- Volunteer to collect Angel Tree gifts after Mass (Volunteer)
- Set-up Christmas decoration at Church (Volunteer)
- Food delivery to senior parishioner or homebound (Outreach)
- Participate in Mobile Market pantry in your neighborhood (Outreach)
- Check with a local St. Vincent de Paul to organize, clean pantry (Outreach)
- Check with the Food Bank for service opportunities. (Outreach) foodbanknwi.org
If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sarah Barnard, volunteers@foodbanknwi.org, 219-980-1777 x316.
- Phil's Friends (Outreach)
- Praying for the end of abortion at Planned Parenthood (Outreach)
- Serving at Pro Labore Dei mission on Saturdays from 9am-12pm
14414 S. McKinley Ave. Posen, IL (Outreach)
- **Middle School Community Assistance Project**

This project is designed to seek out people in our own local community (within 10 miles of SJE) to provide physical assistance in tasks such as landscaping, simple repairs, indoor clean-up, etc..

How does this project work?

1. Someone will learn of and nominate a person or family in need.
2. If YOU nominate the person/family, YOU will be the project coordinator. **ALL PROJECT COORDINATORS MUST BE VIRTUS TRAINED PRIOR TO THE PROJECT.** (This is an on-line certification course)
3. You will contact the person/family and put together a task list. You will identify how many students and adult volunteers you will need to work on the project.
4. Project coordinators will be responsible for supplying basic working supplies (i.e. garden gloves, latex gloves, shovels, etc) and a cooler of water.
5. Each project will be worth between 1-3 Outreach service hours.
6. Coordinators can contact Keith Burke at kburke@stjohnparish.org with project proposals. Once approved a sign up will be sent to middle school students. All middle school student volunteers must have a waiver signed by their parents before starting the project.

We want to encourage students to take their own initiative to be “on the lookout” for various ways to serve others. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Religious education office @ 219-806-0583

If you have any questions or concerns, we are available to serve your family's needs. Thank you for partnering with us to serve.

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