

Scotus Central Catholic Living the Faith Program Student Handbook

Purpose: One of the core values of Scotus Central Catholic is to serve the Lord. This was best exemplified by Christ's service and sacrifice to others. We are compelled by Christ to serve. *"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35

At Scotus Central Catholic, we want to instill in our students and staff members this spirit of service and selfless love. To facilitate this, we encourage our students and staff to participate in valuable service that will glorify God and help their neighbors. The Living the Faith program encourages students to discover and use the gifts God has given them to share His love with those around them and encounter Him in those they serve.

Guidelines: To live out our faith, students are asked to participate in meaningful service throughout the year. Each extracurricular activity will offer at least one community service activity each year, in which students will have the opportunity to participate alongside their peers. Additionally, each student will have service requirements as part of their grade in their Religion classes.

Junior High: Each junior high student is required to participate in 4 service experiences throughout the school year, with each project amounting to at least **4** hours of service. They may do so by participating in school sponsored service activities or by coordinating their own activities individually or with their families. Each quarter, they will submit a signed Living the Faith Hours Form to their Religion teacher. They will receive a grade for the completion of each quarter's project. The projects should fit within the following categories: Family and Friends, Community, Church, and School 1 project per category, per year. Examples of qualifying projects are included in a separate handout provided by the Religion Department.

High School: Each high school student will complete **three** service projects for a project grade in their Religion classes each year. **By the end of the school year, one project should be completed in each of the following categories: community, school, and parish.** They will receive guidance in planning these projects from their religion teachers **and will have the opportunity to sign up for projects at a service fair during orientation.** After their completion, students will be asked to reflect upon and share the service work that they have completed. More detailed requirements and deadlines for these projects will be outlined by each religion teacher. Additionally, high school students will be required to complete one summer project. The completion form for this summer project available on the Scotus website will be turned in to their religion teacher in the fall for a grade. High school students will also be assisted in tracking and logging their service experiences on a service resume that they can use in their future endeavors.

General Service Guidelines for All Students:

- Students should not receive reimbursement or benefits in exchange for their volunteering.
- Service projects should not be completed for a for-profit organization or business.
- The service completed should go above and beyond a student's regular duties or expectations.
- Students should serve with a willing heart and joyful, generous spirit.
- Any students who fail to complete their service requirements will participate in a mandatory day of service from 8am-3:30pm on the first day of summer break after semester tests.