

Name: _____

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

8th Grade Confirmation

Mercy Experience Journal

2018-2019



*You did not choose me; I chose you
and appointed you to go and bear
much fruit, the kind of fruit that
endures. And so the Father will give
you whatever you ask of him in my
name. This, then, is what I command
you: love one another.*

– John 15:16-17



Welcome! We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as you complete your preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the 8th grade. As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! You will be given the opportunity to continue to learn about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave us The Great Commandment and it sounds straight forward: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:34–40).

How do we show God that we love him? After all, we can’t actually give HIM a hug or help him with a chore.

One of the things we are called to do as disciples of Christ is love our neighbor, which is the second part of the Great Commandment. Who is our neighbor? Our neighbor is any child of God. Our neighbors are people we know and don’t know; people we like and don’t like; people who do good things and people who do bad things. They are all our neighbors, and we must love them all.

One of the ways God asks us to love others is through service. While public schools require service hours as a way of developing good citizens and instilling an upright ethical attitude, Catholics engage in service as a way of extending God’s *mercy* to others and sharing one another’s burdens. As such, they are not service projects or service hours, but *experiences* of God’s enduring *mercy*.

This Mercy Experience Journal lists 2 categories of Mercy Experiences—Family/Prayer and Community/Parish. You are to complete 10 hours of mercy experiences in **EACH CATEGORY** for a total of 20 hours. Suggested activities are indicated in this journal but you are not limited to these. As you complete an activity, update your Mercy Experience sheet with the activity and time devoted to it and have it signed by a supervising adult.

Once you have completed a minimum of 20 hours of Mercy Experiences, choose two activities, one from each category, and answer the reflection questions about those 2 activities in this journal. This journal should be completed and turned in to the Religious Education Office by March 1, 2019.

Our hope and prayer is that your experiences this year will lead you to desire a lifetime of Mercy Experiences, knowing that you are witnessing to your faith in Jesus with every action you take.

If you have any questions, be sure to contact us. Many blessings for a year of growing in your faith!

Mrs. Judy Zedan
Director of Religious Education
j.zedan@stargp.org

Mrs. Colleen Haubert
Confirmation Coordinator
c.haubert@stargp.org

Mercy Experience Categories

Family/Prayer – 10 hours

- Read the Bible or inspirational books (Lives of the Saints)
- Read daily devotions
- Pray the Rosary
- Organize Advent and Lent prayer groups.
- Pray a Novena
- Take the initiative to help with chores at home
- Help extended family (Grandparents, aunts/uncles) or neighbors with home chores.
- Create a special family night by making dinner and planning activities/games.
- Start or continue Advent or Lenten traditions with your family.
- Attending Mass does not count as a Mercy Experience. Weekly Mass Attendance is one of the Ten Commandments and not attending is a Mortal Sin.

Community/Parish – 10 hours

- Visit residents at a local nursing home
 - Bingo at Sunrise* or another Nursing home
 - Perform a musical concert at Sunrise* or another Nursing home
- Get involved in a local charity
 - St. Vincent de Paul, Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest, Salvation Army, Angel Tree*, etc.
- Witness your Faith - Red Shirt Project*
- Participate in liturgy as an altar server, greeter, or choir member.
- Volunteer for Family Fun Day, June 24, 2018
- Kingdom Kids Sunday Preschool Assistant* Sundays (during the school year) @ 9:30am Mass
 - You must still attend Mass at another time.
- Help with parish events throughout the year*
 - Thanksgiving Food Drive
 - The Taste
 - Christmas Giving Tree
 - Fish Fry
 - Knights of Columbus Events
- Tutor at your local Elementary School

*Designates service information and/or sign up with the Religious Education office

.Confirmation Mercy Experience Requirements 2018-19

Complete this form and turn into the Religious Education Office by March 1, 2019

Family/Prayer (10 hours)

Ex. Made Dinner and Did the Dishes for family #Hours: 2
Signature: Mrs. Smith (Student's Mother) Date: 8-12-17

1. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

4. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

5. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

6. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

7. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

8. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

9. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

10. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Community/Parish (10 hours)

Complete this form and turn into the Religious Education Office by March 1, 2019

1. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

4. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

5. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

6. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

7. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

8. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

9. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

10. _____ #Hours: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Confirmation Mercy Experience Reflection Sheet

Must be completed and turned into the Religious Education Office by March 1, 2019.

***Please choose one experience listed on page 5 and
answer the questions below in no less than 20 words each.***

Describe one experience you had with your **family or in prayer**.

How did this experience affect those you were serving?

How did this experience tie into your faith?

Would you want to experience this again?

Confirmation Mercy Experience Reflection Sheet

Must be completed and turned into the Religious Education Office by March 1, 2019.

***Please choose one experience listed on page 6 and
answer the questions below in no less than 20 words each.***

Describe one experience you had with your **community or parish**.

How did this experience affect those you were serving?

How did this experience tie into your faith?

Would you want to experience this again?

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- Mark 10:45

Mercy Experience Information

Mercy Experience	Description	Dates	Contact
Parish Family Fun Day	Volunteering to help with Family Fun Day in many different capacities such as Leader Support, Drama Support, Snack Support, Station Support, Set-up and Clean-up.	June 24, 2018	Mrs. Zedan - j.zedan@stargp.org
Gleaners	Pack or Sort Food for the Needy.	Pick your own dates	Register at www.gcfb.org
Red Shirt Witnessing	Wear a Red Shirt that says "I Love Jesus" for 5 days and journal the responses that you receive. You will be witnessing your faith, not defending it. Shirt cost is \$10. Journal will be provided by Rel. Ed.	5 days of your choosing; 1 day equals 1 hour	Mrs. Haubert – c.haubert@stargp.org
Angel Tree	Earning (\$25 limit) money to buy a Christmas present for a child whose parent is in prison. Project will start in early October and end in mid December with the gift turn in and prayer service at the Thams' family home in GPF. Opportunity will also be available to write cards, bake cookies or be on the gift delivery team.	September – mid December	Mrs. Haubert – c.haubert@stargp.org
Thanksgiving Food Drive Organizer	Starting in mid-Sept to early October, send letters to Churches that will be participating. Be in charge of actual sorting day (checking boxes to make sure all items are there) – 10:30am-1:30pm under direction of Debby Veltri.	Begin Mid-Sept...end in Mid Nov.	1 student Contact Debby Veltri – d.veltri@stargp.org
Christmas Giving Tree Organizer	Send letters to Organizations in early October. Make Labels for Trees. Pick up/delivery and sorting (45 minutes) and purchasing items (with gift cards) that were not returned.	Begin Early Oct...end in Mid Dec.	1 student Contact Debby Veltri – d.veltri@stargp.org
Sunrise of GPW	Play Bingo and Visit with Residents on Saturdays (at least 2 visits)	Anytime June-March	Gretchen at Sunrise 313-343-5693

Rev. 5-21-18