

Discipleship Hours

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself”

– Matthew 22:37-39

Discipleship hours are a requirement for Confirmation at Holy Spirit. Why do we require discipleship hours? The services hours are meant to inspire in each Confirmation candidate a love for God and a love for neighbor.

How do I fulfill this requirement?

Twelve (12) hours are needed to fulfill the requirement. The service hours should relate to the Corporal Works of Mercy, Spiritual Works of Mercy, or the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. For example, one of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to instruct the ignorant. Your child can sign up to volunteer with Vacation Bible School at Holy Spirit. The Office of Religious Education will provide opportunities during the summer for the candidates to fulfill this requirement. The candidate must fill out the Confirmation Discipleship Form for each different act of service. The Discipleship Form for must be signed by a parent.

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

From the moment of our baptism, we embark on a lifelong journey to know and love the Lord. We are taught from our earliest years the doctrines of the Catholic Church. But it's not simply enough to know Jesus, we must also love Him. The Gospels teach us that we foster that love for Jesus Christ Himself when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned. “As often as you do it for the least of my brothers, you did for me” (Mt. 25:40). Based on both Scripture and Tradition, the Church teaches that we can fulfill this command of Jesus, by doing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

The Corporal Works of Mercy:

Feed the hungry; Give drink to the thirsty; Clothe the naked; Give shelter to the homeless; Visit the sick; Visit the imprisoned; Bury the dead.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs. Through the Corporal Works of Mercy, we recognize the sacredness of human life.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

Counsel the doubtful; Instruct the ignorant; Admonish the sinner; Comfort the afflicted; Forgive offenses; Bear wrongs with patience; Pray for the living and dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

The works of mercy are not optional but are absolutely essential to living the Christian life of holiness and goodness. (CCC2447)

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are present in all Christians who are in a state of grace. We receive them when we are infused with sanctifying grace, the life of God within us—as, for example, when we receive a sacrament worthily. The Catechism states, "They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them" (CCC1831) Infused with His gifts, we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as if by instinct, the way Christ Himself would.

Wisdom

Wisdom is the gift by which we come to value properly those things which we believe through faith. Wisdom helps us to order our relationship to the created world properly, loving Creation for the sake of God, rather than for its own sake.

Understanding

Wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God. Through understanding, we gain a certitude about our beliefs that moves beyond faith.

Counsel

Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we are able to judge how best to act almost by intuition. Because of the gift of counsel, Christians need not fear to stand up for the truths of the Faith, because the Holy Spirit will guide us in defending those truths.

Fortitude

Fortitude us the strength to follow through on the actions suggested by the gift of counsel. Fortitude is the virtue of the martyrs that allows them to suffer death rather than to renounce the Christian Faith.

Knowledge

Knowledge is the perfection of faith, but whereas wisdom gives us the desire to judge all things according to the truths of the Catholic Faith, knowledge is the actual ability to do so. Like counsel, it is aimed at our actions in this life. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can determine God's purpose for our lives and live them accordingly.

Piety

Piety is the willingness to worship and to serve God. Piety takes that willingness beyond a sense of duty, so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love.

Fear of the Lord

This gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the desire not to offend God, as well as the certainty that God will supply us the grace that we need in order to keep from offending Him. Our desire not to offend God is more than simply a sense of duty; like piety, the fear of the Lord arises out of love.