

## Ministry Hours for the 2026–2027 School Year

Students are reminded that ministry hours are a required part of the theology curriculum and are intended to encourage Christian service within the community.

Theology teachers will specify how ministry hours are to be divided throughout the year for grading purposes. Half of the required ministry hours must be completed before Christmas Break, and the remaining hours are due by the end of the school year. Please note that **up to 5 hours per semester** may be earned by participating in Parish/Diocesan Youth Trips, Conferences, or Retreats.

### Required Ministry Hours

#### 7th–8th Grade

- 20 total hours
- 10 Church Hours
- 10 Community Hours

#### 9th–10th Grade

- 25 total hours
- 13 Church Hours
- 12 Community Hours

#### 11th–12th Grade

- 30 total hours
- 15 Church Hours
- 15 Community Hours

### Service of Distinction

Students who earn DOUBLE the required credits in **both** categories will be recognized during the end of year awards ceremony.

Beginning with the Class of 2030, seniors who earn double the required ministry hours in **both** categories during all four years of high school (9th–12th grade) will be recognized with a special cord to wear at graduation.

Church Hours may be used in place of Community Hours (but will not satisfy service of distinction requirements)

To qualify for the Service of Distinction Award, all hours must be submitted by the third Monday in April.

### **Examples of Acceptable Ministry Hours**

- Any activity for a non-profit organization
  - Non-profit should be a 501c3 designated Charity
  - The event AND mission of the charity must be in line with Catholic teaching and doctrine
- Parish-related activities that help others such as:
  - mowing church or rectory lawns
  - folding Sunday bulletins
  - painting
  - mission trips
  - altar serving
  - choir participation
  - parish projects
- Visiting the elderly in nursing homes or VA hospitals
- Participating in community service events such as (service hours may not be awarded for activities that primarily benefit a private business, commercial enterprise, or for-profit organization, even when conducted as part of a larger community event)
  - Heart Walk
  - Coast Cleanup
  - Relay for Life
  - Cruisin' the Coast
  - Rock-the-Night
- Helping at a local soup kitchen
- Creating care packages for soldiers overseas
- Organizing canned food drives for St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Collecting toys for children in local hospital cancer wards
- Visiting hospital patients and distributing cards
- Volunteering at Special Olympics events
- Volunteering at SVDP sales (1st and 3rd Saturdays from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)

## **Examples of Non-Acceptable Ministry Hours**

- Any paid activity
- Working concession stands
- Immediate family responsibilities such as:
  - household chores
  - mowing family lawns
  - babysitting siblings
- Any activity performed for a business
- Work at school that is part of the student's obligation as a student
- Youth group or club activities that are considered part of the student's obligation as a member of that group

## **Submitting Hours**

Completed service hour forms should be submitted to the student's theology teacher within two (2) weeks of completing the service activity.

Any hours earned during the summer must be submitted prior to September 1 in order to receive credit.

All service hour forms must be submitted by the STUDENT. Forms submitted by parents or others will not be accepted, as this is a graded assignment and the responsibility of the student.