**Gift of Service**

*Jesus said, “Here I am among you as one who serves.”*

Luke 22:27

A strong faith is built on the pillars of prayer, knowledge, and service. The Catholic Church has a long history of being at the forefront of serving others in both areas of immediate charity and on-going social justice. As you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, it is important that you look for ways that you can be involved in service, to the parish, to your school, to the local community, and to the global community. It is not enough that you have learned about your faith but that you continue to develop a willingness of heart to follow in the footsteps of Christ and serve others.

Below is a list of upcoming and ongoing service opportunities. Some are one-time events, others are ongoing. Some are organized for you and you simply register and participate, others are ideas of things you might investigate and participate in on your own. Before making a commitment to a project, spend some time reflecting on the variety of ways in which you can use your talents and gifts. You may also wish to talk with your sponsor or parent about service ideas; even invite them to participate with you. You are encouraged to research and discover real needs that people in your family, neighborhood, parish, school or community may have. As opportunities arise here in the parish, emails will be sent out to your parents inviting your participation. We are asking for two experiences but please do not feel that you need to limit your participation to only two. Get involved as much as you have time for. May the Holy Spirit be with you as you serve in Christ’s name.

**Upcoming One-Time Opportunities at St. Colette:**

* **Youth Ministry Evergreen Sale – Friday, November 25, 2022.** Assist with our Youth Ministry program’s biggest fundraiser of the year, which helps raise money for teen parishioners to attend retreats and other events. Sign up for a specific time shift with Mary Jo Parnell, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, 734-464-1677 or youthministry@stcolette.net.
* **Advent Giving Tree Gift Sorting – Sunday, December 11, 2022.** Members of the parish will gather at the Church to sort the many items that have been brought for the Giving Tree. Sign up with Cindy Portis, Christian Service Coordinator, 734-464-4436.
* **Children’s Christmas Choir – practices are Sundays from 11:15-11:45 beginning on Dec. 4, 2022.** Sing at our 4pm Family Christmas Eve Mass. Sign up with Mark Newlon, Music Minister, 734-464-4374.
* **Epiphany Kits Hand Out – January 7-8, 2023 after all Masses.** Be present at one of the Masses over that weekend to hand out Epiphany chalk and instructions to parishioners as they leave Mass. Sign up with Mary Jo Parnell, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, 734-464-1677 or youthministry@stcolette.net.
* **Super Bowl of Caring – February 11-12, 2023 after all Masses.** Be present at one of the Masses over that weekend to collect donations in soup pots as parishioners leave Mass. All money collected will be donated to local hunger organizations. Sign up with Mary Jo Parnell, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, 734-464-1677 or youthministry@stcolette.net.
* **Easter Egg Hunt – March 25, 2023, 10am-2pm.** Teens will be helping to set up the party, run the games and crafts for the children during the party, and cleaning up when it’s done. Sign up with Mary Jo Parnell, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, 734-464-1677 or youthministry@stcolette.net.
* **SCAP Volunteer – June/July 2023, evening and morning programs.** Students can help by being classroom aides, craft aides, and snack aides. Sign up with the RE Office before May 1, 2023, 734-464-4435.
* **St. Colette Parish Picnic – September 10, 2023, 1-5pm.** Each September we need extra help at the Parish Picnic, either with the RE Office program of children’s games and crafts, or at one of the many snack and beverage tents at the picnic. Sign ups will happen in August.

**Ongoing Opportunities at St. Colette:**

* **Altar Serving.** Students that are current Altar Servers that serve on a regular basis (meaning at least once a month) may utilize this as one of their service requirements. If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please call the parish office at 734-464-4433 to schedule training.
* **Cookie Making for Soup Kitchen.** We are always in need of donations of cookies (any variety) that volunteers can take to the soup kitchen. Many times donations of “sweets” get overlooked as they focus on the meal. Students will need to bake either 100 large size cookies or 200 small size cookies. These can be dropped off at the office during business hours. This would be a great sponsor/candidate project to do together. Please be sure to include a copy of the recipe used as well as the student’s full name.
* **Plarn.** Our Mat Maker Ministry is always in need of help with making of plarn (plastic yarn). Plarn is made by cutting plastic grocery bags and intertwining them. The plarn should then be rolled into balls which we will pass on to our Mat Makers to crochet into mats for the homeless. If you’d like to get instructions or a demonstration, contact Cindy Portis, Christian Service Coordinator, 734-464-4436.

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**Service Ideas**

1. Make holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Easter, or 4th of July) cards or decorations for a local nursing home.
2. Become involved with Meals on Wheels.
3. Organize a food drive in your neighborhood or among your family and friends for a specific hunger organization.
4. Prepare a meal for the Wayne County Family Shelter. Please contact the shelter directly for the number of residents and to make arrangements. This should be an actual prepared meal, not ordering pizza or something else. This would be a great family project. You can contact the shelter at 734-721-0590. They are located on Michigan Ave. in Westland.
5. Organize and facilitate a family garage sale, with the money raised going to a charity of your choice.
6. Offer to babysit younger siblings/cousins/friends so that the parents can have an evening out. Do this for free, but if an adult insists on giving money for your time, donate the money to a charity of your choice.
7. Write a letter to your elected official about a cause you believe in.
8. Volunteer at a local animal shelter. They are often looking for volunteers to walk, play with, brush, and clean up after the animals.
9. Stuff warm socks with snacks, and along with an adult, pass out to the homeless.
10. Rake the yard or shovel the snow from the walk of an elderly neighbor.
11. Volunteer to read to a resident in a local nursing home.
12. Collect used sporting equipment and donate to communities that don’t have access, such as Level the Playing Field to help kids in the US or IAYS that works with the Peace Corps to deliver worldwide.
13. Collect gently used baby items to donate to the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center, 32080 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Call to see what items they are currently looking for – 734-425-8060.
14. Go through books you’ve outgrown and donate them to the local library.
15. Donate gently used stuffed animals to a firehouse or police station to give to children in emergencies.
16. Check out hosting a shoe-cutting party for Sole Hope (solehope.org) – they use old jeans to make shoes for kids in Uganda.
17. Pick up litter at a park or in your neighborhood – anywhere you can make a difference.
18. Write cards or letters or send care packages to those serving in the military. You can find out more through operationgratitude.com.
19. If you have a birthday party, instead of gifts, ask for people to bring donations. You can choose your favorite charity and ask for supplies they need or monetary donations. It’s a great way to spread awareness and help an organization at the same time.