

Our Lady of Hope Parish, New Hartford and Harwinton, Connecticut

Religious Education Program 2024-25, **Confirmation Classes of 2025 and 2026**

# Faith Commitments!

Every Confirmation student will be required to fulfill 6 spiritual works of mercy per year (3 in the fall and 3 in the spring) and 4 corporal work of mercy per year (2 in the fall and 2 in the spring) and to write a reflection on these experiences.

What is a Faith Commitment, you may wonder? Here is a two-part answer to that question:

## 1. **Spiritual Works of Mercy: Church-related activities! (6 per year)**

Did you know that **prayer** is actually a form of service? One of the most powerful things you can do for someone, and for yourself, is to pray for them. Here are some ways you can fulfil this faith commitment:

- a. Participate in a group Rosary such as Rachel Rosary or Rosary for Vocations on Thursday nights.
- b. Make a pilgrimage to Lourdes shrine in Litchfield (or another shrine if you are traveling).
- c. Attend Holy Hour / Eucharistic Adoration. On Tues, Wed evenings in IHOM, Mondays in ICC
- d. Attend or help lead Stations of the Cross during Lent.
- e. Attend a *weekday Mass* (in addition to Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation) such as Mass in Latin on Wednesday evenings at IHOM at 7:00 p.m.
- f. Visit the Fatima Shrine on the grounds of the parish office (60 Town Hill Rd New Hartford) and say a Rosary, either with your family **any** time or as part of a group that gathers on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month from May - October (the anniversary of the appearances of Our Lady of Fatima).
- g. Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday, 7 p.m.) and/or Good Friday Service (3 p.m.)

## 2. **Corporal Works of Mercy: Dedicate Community Service to Jesus! (4 per year)**

You may have become familiar with the term "service opportunity." You may even participate in volunteer work through your school or scouting or another organization. As Confirmation students, we emphasize the **focus** of that service; that we **dedicate it to Jesus**. That's why we call our service "faith commitments."

Here are some ideas for corporal works of mercy you can participate in this year:

- Make a meal for FISH homeless shelter, deliver, and tour FISH.
  - (We will do this together as a class.)
- Visit a nursing home and help the residents address Christmas cards or another activity.
  - (We will do this together as a class.)
- Make blankets for a homeless shelter or TWO HEARTS pregnancy care center
- Make pies for the OLOH Pie Booth at the Harwinton fair or help man the booth.
- Help with the Lions Club flea market (next June)
- Help with gardening or spring cleanup at either church