

CHRISTIAN SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Consonant with the tradition of the Catholic Church, we believe that each person has been created in the image and likeness of God, and we become more fully human by serving and loving in community. God calls us to extend His reign through a living faith expressed in service, and through our service to bring forth the Christian spirit in the human race.

Scripture states that “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and we have gifts that differ according to the grace given us.” Our service program exists to express and grow these charisms, and thus it is an integral, mandatory part of the STVM educational process. It provides our students with specific opportunities to use their gifts and talents as active, educated leaders, living the Gospel in a rapidly changing world.

Minimum Requirements

*Service hours must be completed during non-school hours and must not be family related. Work done at a for-profit organization or for an individual who would normally pay for the service does not meet the criteria for community service at STVM. Service done for any individual person-in-need should be **approved in advance** by the Service Coordinator. Many service projects are available at STVM throughout the school year for a variety of events and needs.*

Freshmen FIFTEEN and TEN Program: 25 hours of service completed by May 1st

As part of the freshman experience, **fifteen service hours will be independently completed** through student-selected projects. **Another ten service hours will also be completed at STVM**, including hours earned during the Freshman Day of Reflection and other STVM service-opportunities offered throughout the school year. *The FIFTEEN and TEN Program is mandatory; all freshmen MUST participate in STVM service as a way to grow in our school community.* STVM opportunities will occur from September – April, before, during, and after school. Information will be published as opportunities are made available.

All service hours must be properly documented and forms must be turned in to the Service Office. [Accumulation of hours may begin on June 1st of the eighth grade year.]

Sophomores & Juniors: 25 hours of service completed by May 1st

All service hours must be properly documented and forms must be turned in to the Service Office.

Seniors: 25 hours of service completed by April 15th

All service hours must be properly documented and forms must be turned in to the Service Office.

As a condition for graduation, all students must engage in service to others for 25 hours each of their four years, for a minimum total of 100 hours. These efforts will award the student ¼ credit per year.

**ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET IN ORDER TO GRADUATE
AND PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION ACTIVITIES.**

Students who have not completed their service requirement for the previous school year will need to make up those hours during their current school year. Those students will be notified within the first few weeks of the school year.

Those who have not met their required service hours will not receive their schedules for the next year until the necessary documentation is turned in to the Service Office.

Service Awards

The *Service Cord* is awarded to seniors who have completed a minimum of 200 hours of service during their four years at STVM. Additional hours may be earned throughout high school, but ALL requirements and deadlines must be met in order to receive this honor.

The U.S. Presidential Service Award is awarded to students who earn 100 or more service hours in a period of twelve consecutive months. Students are responsible for initiation of the application online at: presidentialserviceawards.gov. Directions for application are in the Service Office.

