



Stewardship
FAQ

The following questions are some of those most often asked in regard to Stewardship service hours. Please read through both the questions and responses to help you better navigate the process with your child. Should you still have questions after reading through this sheet, please don't hesitate to contact our office at ext. 213.

What is stewardship?

The Church has always taught that every gift we have is from God: our time, our talent, and our treasure. As members of the Church, our response to God's blessing is to give back to Him by giving back to His Church. *"Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common." Acts 4: 32*

Why do Confirmation candidates need to perform stewardship hours?

Upon receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church and will have all that he/she needs to fully live out his/her mission for Christ and His Church. The Diocese of Metuchen requires that candidates perform 20 service hours in the preparation period to help them begin to discover what special gifts they may possess and how best to put those gifts into use in serving others.

Does volunteering count towards my stewardship hours?

Volunteering and doing things without expectation of pay helps us become more generous and less selfish. The focus of stewardship is putting another person's needs before your own and is centered on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Each of the works of mercy brings a two-fold gift: relief to a suffering fellow human being and joy to the one who practices the work of mercy. So, if your volunteer work provides you an encounter with another in which you offer yourself and your gifts to support them, you can count those hours. *Refer to your booklet for a complete list of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.*

Does helping my grandma and grandpa with their groceries count?

Helping your family members is an excellent way to express your love for them. This is part of your responsibility to one another in the family bond! Therefore, helping family members may *not* be counted towards stewardship hours because it is part of our duty as family.

May I use my time as a volunteer camp counselor to fulfill my 10 hours?

The main objective of performing stewardship is to help discover what God-given gifts you may have and how best to use them to serve God and His Church. Experiencing a variety of stewardship opportunities may provide different perspectives and uncover a gift you may have never considered. Therefore, no more than five (5) hours should be applied in one experience. And two (2) of 10 hours must be a spiritual work of mercy.

What can I do to support my child during this experience?

- Help them to identify what gifts they have by telling them what traits or characteristics you see in them.
- Talk about serving others and any experiences you have had practicing stewardship
- Participate along with them, i.e., helping at the food pantry or at a soup kitchen, visiting a nursing home together, going to Eucharistic Adoration together and praying for those on the parish sick list, etc.