



VERMILION CATHOLIC
a legacy of Mount Carmel

Apostolic Service Requirements for 2025-2026

FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6th-12th

The gospel mandate to serve is a central tenet of the Catholic faith. All students in grades 6 through 12 will have to complete a number of annual Service and Devotional/Spiritual Hours appropriate to their grade levels. These requirements, along with the submission guidelines, will be included in each Religion teacher's classroom management plans and discussed in class.

This year we will have two separate requirements and opportunities for our students to serve: Apostolic Service hours and Devotional hours.

These **Apostolic Service Hours** should be both meaningful and effective in teaching our students their Christian responsibility to serve others as Christ has served us. While we encourage our students to serve their families with generosity such as moving, lawn care, babysitting, etc., it is necessary that your official service opportunities be community-minded and not family obligations.

For middle school students, these hours will be completed within the context of a school day on campus. At this grade level, teaching service as a part of our curriculum is a necessary way to reinforce the idea that all Catholics are called to serve and helps to model this teaching as they grow and confirm as adults in our Church.

- **All students in grades 6-8 will complete a mandatory service project in school under the direction of the Religion Administrator and Religion teachers. Each project will be grade-level appropriate and the students will complete a Service Reflection following the service endeavor. These students will earn a service grade for each project.**

If a student is absent on the day of the service project, it should be completed at home on their own time if applicable. The teacher will determine completion requirements.

For upper school, these hours will be completed outside of school and submitted for a grade by the conclusion of each quarter (2 hours per quarter).

- **All students in grades 9-12 are expected to devote 8 clock hours of Apostolic service before the end of the school year.**

- Students cannot get all 8 hours in one service project – hours must be earned from at least two different activities.
- Any school related activity can only count as a maximum of 2 total hours per activity
- Exception: Catholic Church related activity (volunteer for Vacation Bible Camp, Faith Family Sundays, Edge Core Team, FMC Faith Camp) **As a reminder, you must be assisting as a volunteer or leader in the activity and not a participant)**
- **All activities outside of school or church must be pre approved by the Director of Faith and Formation or by the theology teachers.**
 - rachaeldavid@vermilioncatholic.com can be emailed if you have any questions about service hours approval.
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At the conclusion of each service opportunity, the Service Reflection must be completed, signed by the supervisor of the project/ event/activity, and submitted to the student's Theology teacher by the school-wide submission dates. The student will receive a grade for the service hours *and* the required reflection.

The Devotional Hours will be acquired throughout the school year.

Along with service requirements, students will be expected to earn devotional hours during this school year. The purpose of our devotional hours is for students to make a personal effort to grow in their faith outside of required activities like Sunday mass. The goal of these hours is to build personal habits to allow themselves to grow in their prayer life and personal relationship with God.

Our 6th - 8th grade students will fulfill the obligations within the context of the school day under the guidance of their theology teachers.

Our 9th - 12th students will be expected to complete 2 hours within the time frame of each nine week.

These hours are **within the academic school year** and can not be obtained during the summer. Required school religious activities (weekly school liturgies, etc) do not count as devotional hours. Optional activities sponsored by the school or Catholic church parishes will count.

Examples include: holy hour in Adoration Chapel, praying the rosary with a group, praise and worship nights, Lenten or Advent mission talks, weekday Mass (not school sponsored), etc. These will be explained in full detail in the theology classrooms at the beginning of the school year.

There will be Apostolic service and Devotional hours opportunities provided throughout the school year. If a student does not reach his/her requirements through these, it is important that students, with the help of their parents or peers, take the initiative to arrange other opportunities to complete his/her hours. It is not the school's responsibility to complete or arrange the required hours.

Upper School Submission Dates:

Students should submit the required paperwork and the required amount of hours by the following deadlines. Any student falling short of his/her service requirement will earn a 0 for that assignment in that grading period.

First Deadline:

- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock hours for Apostolic Service Hours and the required paperwork by **Wednesday, October 1, 2025.**
- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock hours for Devotional Hours and the required paperwork by **Wednesday, October 1, 2025.**

Second Deadline:

- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock Apostolic Service Hours and the required paperwork by **Friday, December 12, 2025.**
- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock Devotional Hours and the required paperwork by **Friday, December 12, 2025.**

Third Deadline:

- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock Apostolic Service hours and the required paperwork by **Friday, March 6, 2026.**
- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock Devotional hours and the required paperwork by **Friday, March 6, 2026**

Fourth Deadline:

- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock Apostolic service and the required paperwork by **Friday, May 15, 2026.**
- All students in grades 9-12 are required to submit 2 clock Devotional hours and the required paperwork by **Friday, May 15, 2026.**

Apostolic Service Opportunities & Contact Information

Use this information below to help guide you in completing your service hours, but please note that this is not the all inclusive list of what is accepted for fulfilling service hours. If you have any questions about whether or not your service hours will be accepted, please contact your Theology teacher or the Director of Faith and Formation at rachael david@vermilioncatholic.com. Included is the reflection page for apostolic service hour if you should complete these over the summer. Please print in order for the supervisor to sign.

School Liturgies

Altar Serving • Mrs. Rachael David

A student can earn 2 total clock hours for serving at school liturgies for the Academic year. You must keep track of the dates you serve. (a minimum of 2 liturgies)

Lectoring • Mrs. Rachael David

A student can earn 1 clock hour for reading at school liturgies for the Academic year. You must keep track of and record the dates you lector for Masses (a minimum of 2 Liturgies)

Music Ministry • Mrs. Laura Humble

A student can earn 2 total clock hours for singing in MM at school liturgies for the Academic year.

VC Development Office • Ms. Jessica Cormier/Mrs. Ann Hargrave

You are always invited to volunteer for major school events to fulfill your service hours and/or at school-wide work days. Opportunities are announced when they are available.

Serving as a volunteer on St. Mary Magdalen's Edge Core Teams, Life Teen Core Team, or Faith Family Sundays.

John Listi • 337-893-0244 • johnvlistigmail.com

Laura Humble • 337-893-0244 • laurahumble@vermilioncatholic.com

St. Mary Magdalen Church Office • Abbeville, LA

337-893-0244 • 300 Pere Megret Street • Abbeville, LA 70510

Christian Service Center • Abbeville, LA

337-893-9756 • 701 Chevis Street • Abbeville, LA 70510

Local Nursing Homes • Abbeville, LA

Contact on an individual basis due to visitation rules and expectations.

Vermilion Parish Public Library

<https://www.vermilionparishlibrary.com/>

Abbeville location • 405 E St Victor Street • Abbeville, LA 70510 • 337-893-2674

Catholic Charities of Acadiana • Diocese of Lafayette, LA

<http://catholiccharitiesacadiana.org/> • <http://catholiccharitiesacadiana.org/volunteer-calendar>

Apostolic Service Hours Reflection

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Date(s) of Service: _____

Time(s): _____ to _____ Total Hours: _____

Project/Event: _____

Location: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

***As a reminder, this service must be pre-approved by your theology teacher or Ms. Rachael David.

1. Who or what does this opportunity provide services for? (The participants or organization that you served.)

2. What did you physically do while serving this event/program?

3. How did this activity benefit those served? What kind of impact does this service have?

4. Write a paragraph on the following: (complete sentences and thorough description)

- What did you learn from this experience?
- What did you realize while fulfilling this service?
- What made an impression on you during this opportunity?