



At St. John's Catholic School we believe that faith and service are integral parts of developing the whole child. Our goal is to teach our children that all people have dignity and worth as children of God and it is through living out their faith through service that they act as the hands and feet of Christ. In addition to our high academic standards, we also focus on nurturing each child's spiritual development.

To help nurture this, we encourage our students and families to actively seek to deepen their faith and participate in service activities. Some of these are:

- **Donation of canned food at weekly school masses**

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..." Matthew 25:35

Students attend a weekly school wide mass that offers an opportunity for students, faculty and parents to come together and share their faith during the school day. Students are able to bring canned food and other items needed for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry that provides support to those in our community that are in need.

- **Family FAITH Nights**

A few evenings during the school year the calendar is cleared of all activities and homework to make time for families to spend time together. A discussion topic or service idea is provided to help families discuss or carry out their faith in a deeper way.

- **Classrooms adopt a family in need for Christmas**

Each class adopts a family and parents/ children are provided the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for the family from their wish list and according to their needs.

- **Operation Christmas Child**

Sponsored by the National Junior Honor Society, the members sponsor a school wide drive where students are able to provide items needed to fill shoeboxes with gifts for a child overseas.

- **Community Appreciation Day**

During Catholic Schools Week each classroom is provided a group/ organization (Fire Department, Police Department, Mayor's Office, Priests and Parish staff, etc.) to which they can provide a token and note of thanks for the service they provide to our community.

- **8th Grade Retreat**

Students in 8th grade attend a retreat during the year to help deepen their faith and relationship with God. This retreat also helps focus students to remind them that all people are created and loved by God and should be treated as such.

- **Prayer and Reflection**

Prayer is an integral part of each school day and all school activities. Students pray as a school family at the beginning and end of each school day and also pray before and after meals. In addition, students are encouraged to use prayer spontaneously at any time during the day when they feel prayer is needed.

There are reminders of our faith throughout the physical school building to help students to remember that Christ is at the center of all we do.

- **Servant leaders**

Students are taught that servant leadership is an integral part of our Christian values. Older students in the school are taught leadership skills using this belief. They act in a leadership role by setting a positive example for younger students and engaging in positive interactions. Older students are paired with younger students to be church and reading buddies.

“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God – whom he has not seen.”

1 John 4: 20