



# Saint Patrick School

*Sponsored by the Daughters of Charity*



November 11, 2014

Dear Parents,

Part of our Saint Patrick School Mission Statement states: "In partnership with our families, we are transforming students into life-long learners, **inspiring service to others** and forming compassionate and effective leaders." This inspiration to service finds its foundation in Scripture, in our call as Catholic Christians and as Vincentians.

**We are calling our Saint Patrick School students to serve. This call to service also is being asked of us as part of the Saint Katharine Drexel Initiative.** We shared this with you at the Parent Meetings at the beginning of the school year. Now we want to give you some more information about it. *Service* is defined as any activity rendered in the service of others, without pay or personal recompense, and for the greater good of the school or local community. Our goal is to engage all our students in "grade level number times 2" of non-liturgical service hours to be performed annually.

TK – 2 hours of service

Kindergarten – 2 hours of service

1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 2 hours of service

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 4 hours of service

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 6 hours of service

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8 hours of service

5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 10 hours of service

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12 hours of service

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 14 hours of service, 10 must be outside of the school

8<sup>th</sup> grade – 16 hours of service, 10 must be outside of the school

Students will be given a log to record their hours of service. The log will need to be signed by whoever is supervising the service.

Each student will be asked to reflect in some way (grade appropriate) on the service given. This may take the form of a reflection paper, student prepared and presented prayer service, PowerPoint presentation, video presentation, or some other creative manner as directed by the teacher. The service is one of the requirements for each grade. A student's RELIGION grade will be affected if the required hours are not completed.

There are many ways this service can be completed. For the younger grades their service will be completed with their preparation for and their participation in the Founders Day service project at the end of March. There are many opportunities for students to offer service at Saint Patrick School during recess, lunch and after school. Students need to ask a faculty or staff member if service is needed. Outside of school, often time parishes sponsor special events and projects where help is needed. Perhaps there is an older person in your neighborhood who could use some extra help. Having children doing chores or other responsibilities at home DOES NOT count toward service hours.

As we become aware of service opportunities we share them with you. One event is the "Silicon Valley Turkey Trot" held on Thanksgiving Day. It's an event the whole family can participate in and it raises money for Healthier Kids Foundation Santa Clara County, Housing Trust Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County and The Health Trust.

Another possible service opportunity is helping Mrs. Del Biaggio decorate our Christmas tree for "Christmas in the Park". Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

If you need more information or have questions, please ask your child's teacher, Sister Mary or Ms. Olga.