



Pope John Paul II HIGH SCHOOL

CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

As Missionary Disciples, we are called to imitate Christ and help the “least of these” (MT 25:31-46) through acts of service. Our school’s patron, Pope Saint John Paul II, is a perfect model to what we are called to do. In his homily at Yankee Stadium, he urged lay faithful saying that “You must take of your substance, and not just of your abundance, in order to help them. And you must treat them like guests at your family table” (Homily at Yankee Stadium, October 2, 1979, #4). In light of this challenge from our school's patron, our students are called to put their faith forward through acts of service.

Class of 2025, 2026, and 2027:

Below is information for the Christian Service Program for the Sophomore, Junior and Senior Classes for the 2024-2025 school year:

Who and Where to Serve: We participate in Christian Service and we follow Christ’s example and serve those who are in need. The following are simply suggestions of whom and where to serve. Students may serve other people in need.

- The elderly, homeless and needy, children, disabled, and the sick.
- A recognized non-profit agency such as a soup kitchen or social service agency.
- Nursing homes, parks, and community centers.
- Your church.

What counts as Christian Service? We ask that students look past the schools walls to perform acts of service and only have half of their service hours be in kind to helping with PJP events. You can perform your service at local food pantries, soup kitchens, YMCA,, parishes, non-for-profit organizations and school sponsored service days. We do ask that your act of service is not something:

- Provided to businesses or for-profit organizations
- You should be paid for by law or you accept payment for
- That is also counting towards other mandatory service hours (i.e.: NHS, sports teams, etc.

How many service hours do I need to complete? The following are the *minimum* number of hours which each student must complete after July 1st of each year. These hours must be logged on Mobile Serve and be verified by the location of the service representative.

Each class level is required to complete the following minimum hours:

Seniors: 20 Hours

Juniors: 16 Hours

Sophomores: 12 Hours

When are Service Hours due? All hours must be logged in MobileServe by the end of the 3rd Quarter, Friday March 28th. Failure to do so will result in failure of “Christian Service”. An unsatisfactory grade in Christian Service, along with another academic failure, will result in the student not being allowed to participate in school sports or any school activity. Underclass failure to complete the minimum Christian Service requirements will be carried over to the next school year and rosters will be withheld until service hours have been submitted. No student will graduate until they complete their minimum Christian Service requirement.

New: Veritas Christian Service Honors Society: The Veritas Honors Society at Pope John Paul II High School embodies the school's motto: "Be not afraid to seek the splendor of truth and live the Gospel of life." Named for the Latin word meaning "truth," Veritas symbolizes our commitment to the pursuit of truth in service and life. Dedicated to fostering a culture of service rooted in Christian values, Veritas recognizes students who exceed our community service program requirements by demonstrating exceptional commitment to compassion, empathy, and selflessness. Through service projects aligned with the Gospel values and the splendor of truth, Veritas members inspire and lead their peers to make a positive impact in our community. The details to join the Honors Society are as follows:

- + **Grade Level Eligibility:** Open to Juniors and Seniors at Pope John Paul II High School.
- + **Christian Service Requirement:**
 - + Juniors: Complete a minimum of 50 hours of community service during prior academic year.
 - + Seniors: Complete a minimum of 60 hours of community service during prior academic year.
 - + *Hours must be logged on MobileServe.*
- + **Academic Standing:** Students must maintain a satisfactory academic standing as defined by the school.
- + **Commitment to Christian Values:** Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to Christian values such as compassion, empathy, and selflessness through their service activities.
- + **Application Process:**
 - + Submit documentation of completed community service hours.
 - + Provide a reflection on how their service activities align with the Gospel values and the mission of Veritas.
- + **Recommendation:**
 - + A recommendation from a faculty member or supervisor of the service project may be required to verify the quality and impact of the service activities.
- + **Membership Obligations:**
 - + Upon acceptance, members are expected to continue their exemplary service and participate actively in Veritas activities and initiatives.

*** Applications to the Honors Society open on September 20th and are due by October 20th.**

Class of 2028

Below is information for the Christian Service Program for the Freshman Class for the 2024-2025 school year:

Who and Where to Serve: As part of feedback provided by students, parents, teachers, and staff the Class of 2028 will be participating in a refreshed version of the Christian Service program. The refreshed program is as follows:

1. Each member of the class will be required to perform 5 hours of Christian Service on their own. This service can be performed at local parishes, non-for-profit organizations, elderly family and neighbors in need, or PJP sponsored service projects that will be provided each month.
2. The freshman class will also partner with Marthas Choice Food Pantry and Community Farm. Marthas is an outreach organization of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Social Services and the most visited pantry in Montgomery County. At the food pantry they provide fresh produce, meats, dairy and non-perishables to residents of Montgomery County that are in need. Their fresh produce is supplied by their Farm that is located on the old campus of St. Gabriel's Hall. Each student will be provided with a sign up link to available service dates that PJP will host at Marthas and is asked to sign up for one visit to Marthas within the school year. Transportation to and from Marthas will be provided, times vary depending on the day. Permission Forms will be provided and required for students to attend. Multiple opportunities will be available and we ask that students work out schedules with teachers and coaches to choose the best day to volunteer.

When are Service Hours due? The 5 hours must be logged in MobileServe by the end of the 3rd Quarter, Friday March 28th. Also, Martha's visit must be completed by the end of the 4th Quarter, June 13th. Failure to do so will result in failure of "Christian Service". An unsatisfactory grade in Christian Service, along with another academic failure, will result in the student not being allowed to participate in school sports or any school activity. Underclass failure to complete the minimum Christian Service requirements will be carried over to the next school year and rosters will be withheld until service hours have been submitted. No student will graduate until they complete their minimum Christian Service requirement.