

Dear 8th Grade Teacher,

Thank you so much for participating in the HUGS program for Church School! HUGS is an acronym which stands for “Hands Used for God’s Service.” The Essential Question we wish our students to ask themselves regarding this ministry and their lives is: “How am I using my hands to serve God?” Each year, our church school students will have the opportunity to participate in a different HUGS ministry project embodying Christ’s commission in Matthew Chapter 25. It is our goal to help you teach your students about God’s love and how it can be shown on a daily basis to those around us whether in Church, at school, or at home. We even have a HUGS Ministry theme song for you to play in class called “The Least of These” – you can download it from our archdiocese website under Christian Education/HUGS.

Your 8th Grade class’s mission is to **serve a coffee hour after liturgy**. We hope this encourages your students to serve others every day. Taking part in HUGS is easy! Simply hang the poster provided in your classroom and choose a Sunday to serve coffee hour. We have also provided a parent handout which will tell the parents of your students about the HUGS mission as it may require their help. On our website we have given a craft suggestion for your grade.

We hope this packet provides you with good resources to make your HUGS mission successful. We realize every class and parish is different and we hope HUGS can be used to instill in the students the spirit of gratitude and service. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please don’t hesitate to contact us, we are excited to hear your feedback and ideas!

Thank you!

HUGS Ministry Team

P.S. Check out the overview chart below to see the HUGS Ministry progression from year to year.

Grade:	HUGS Ministry Project/Focus	Matthew 25
Pre-K/Kinder	Give hugs to family and friends	
1 st	Open doors for others	stranger
2 nd	Classroom canned food drive (choose a month)	hungry
3 rd	Serving drinks (i.e. at home, instill spirit of hospitality)	thirsty
4 th	Phone calls to shut-ins during Sunday School (periodically)	visit sick
5 th	Write letters of encouragement to those in prison	prison
6 th	Clothing Drive (i.e. coat drive – choose a month)	naked
7 th	Cleaning the church sanctuary after services	(service)
8 th	Serving coffee at coffee hour (i.e. once a month)	thirsty
9 th	Shoe drive, new & used (choose a month)	naked
10 th	Be a Greeter once a month/mentor with ushers	stranger
11 th	Food drive (choose a month) – contest with 2 nd grade	hungry
12 th	Visit a nursing home or shut in from church; bring that person holy bread & the bulletin	sick