

Faith Prayer Service

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, we gather today to celebrate Faith. Help us to build a strong commitment to you O God. Allow us to celebrate our faith in You together as a Catholic community. Even though we can't see You, we know that You are with us in many shapes, sizes and forms. Give us the opportunity today to share ways in which we live and practice our faith, and help us to grow and find new ways in which we can explore this everlasting relationship. Teach us to be trustworthy, guide us to live in Your image and show us how to be devoted disciples. We ask this in your name, AMEN

Old Testament Reading—Genesis 9:1-12

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27

Response: God's faithfulness is forever unending

Second Reading—Hebrews 11: 23-28

Gospel Reading—Matthew 17: 14-20

Optional Activities:

Paper Chain Link—students can use the colours of the rainbow to create a paper chain link to symbolize the covenant that God made with Noah, and that we are all linked together in our faith.

White candle or cloth—White is the symbol of renewal and new beginnings. "White" will remind us to begin the school year with a renewed faith in God, self and others.

Footprints—Students can bring a footprint to symbolize that we walk by faith and that God is always with us, even though we can't see Him in His physical form. Read a copy of the poem "Footprints"

Universal Prayers:

Response: Lord hear our Prayer

- For our Holy Father on earth, Bishops, and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, we pray
- For the priests of our Diocese, particularly (name priest(s) at this Mass) that they/he may continue to share his/their gift of faith with us, we pray
- For our Prime Minister and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, we pray
- For those who show devotion and commitment and live by faith through God, we pray
- For the members of (name school) who are suffering with an illness, we pray
- For the people in our community who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they find faith and be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, we pray

Closing Prayer: Loving God, thank you for having faith in us. After listening to Your stories and sharing our ideas, we learned that faith is the foundation of all relationships. We must have trust in ourselves and each other if we want to grow and live a fulfilled life. We don't need to see Your face, we have proof that You exist everyday in our hearts, mind and spirit. You are the cool breeze in the morning, the ripples of the river, and the clouds in the sky. You exist in every handshake, smile, good deed and laughter. You show up in our hard work ethics, goals, grades and accomplishments. Thank you for pushing us to live in Your image, for helping us make good choices, and teaching us to be kind and forgiving. We pray in the Holy Spirit, with Jesus our Lord, Amen.

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WHAT'S INSIDE:



-Prayer Centre ideas
-Bible Stories of Faith
-Symbols of Faith
-Bulletin board ideas
-Sample prayers

PAGE 2



-Links to Catholic Graduate Expectations
-Quotes about Faith
-Resources to support Faith

PAGE 3



-Prayer Service
PAGE 4

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

Growing our Faith through virtues

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER
VIRTUE: FAITH

The Importance of Faith:

The three theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love are gifts from God that allow us to be in relationship with Him. We can compare these three virtues to glue—that attaches us to God. In our baptism, we receive the gift of Faith. Faith is our ability to believe with our minds and our hearts to trust.



In order to develop our faith, we can turn to prayer, scripture, sacraments and to what the Church teaches. When we develop our faith, we get to know God in a deeper, more loving way. Faith gives us a new way of seeing God, ourselves and everything around us, above all, the needy. We then are better able to seek and do God's will. Faith is very powerful! It inspires and influences our daily

actions. It is not enough to simply believe in God, we are also called to be living examples to others and to also profess our beliefs to all.

Looks like: serving others, lending a helping hand, going to Church, living the Ten Commandments, praying, involvement with the faith community, strong work ethic, responsible, puts the welfare of others ahead of their own welfare, sacramental engagement.

Sounds like: prayer, song, positive attitude, words of kindness and encouragement, responding and singing in Mass.

Feels like: A strong connection with God, safe and secure, comfort, confidence, patience. A faithful friend or person...

- Is confident God will never withdraw His love or break His promises
- Is a loyal, supportive friend
- Can be trusted to fulfill promises and commitments
- Prays when they can, learns from Scripture stories and knows that we are all loved by God

DEVELOPING CHARACTER THROUGH FAITH

The goal of this virtue:

- To help our students grow in Faith and to further develop their relationship with Christ and others
- To build confidence needed in our students for them to be able to profess their faith to others
- To teach our children empathy and the need to see Christ in those around them, especially the needy
- To inspire and influence students to think of God and others in their daily activity
- Making God the Father and Jesus a part of our daily life
- Behaving in a way that demonstrates a love for Christ and others

“Happy of those who have not seen, yet still believe” John 20:29

Building in Opportunities for Prayer in Your Classroom:

- Provide each student with a prayer journal where they can create their own prayer, reflect, pray or draw after listening to scripture
- Include music as a form of prayer
- Smudge in your classroom!
- Loyola Press—3 minute meditation “the eyes of faith”

PRAYER CENTRE IDEAS FOR FAITH



- Post the word FAITH and symbols of faith (cross, staff, chalice, lamp, Bible) at your classroom prayer centre. Have students bring in photos from their baptism
- Post the Apostle’s Creed or the Nicene Creed at your prayer centre. For the months of September and October, have your students recite the prayer each day
- Read the mustard seed parable. Plant a mustard seed and watch it grow
- Google “praying in colour” and lead your students through a doodle prayer. Display pictures

BUILDING FAITH IN OUR HOMES AND SCHOOLS

The home is the first place where children grow and learn. It is where they develop their initial social skills, are taught important values like sharing and taking care of one another. Home is where children are introduced to God and faith. Parents and guardians are the models that children will emulate. We can foster faith development in our children by:

Serving others: Finding a way to be involved in the lives of others is a great way to spend time together and grow spiritually

Focusing on Understanding:

The Bible is an excellent building block for our children to grow in faith; however, hearing God’s words is not enough. Concentrate your time on helping children really understand God’s words, its relevance today and how to apply it.

Attend Mass Together and Pray Together as a Family:

Encourage your children to attend the children’s mass since they have activities that are age appropriate.

Create a faith wall: where students can post symbols from Bible stories

Biblical Stories of Faith

- David and Goliath (1 Samuel: 17)
- Noah (Genesis 4:1-16)
- Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-12)
- God’s Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17: 1-18:5)

Catholic Symbols of our Faith:

- Green cloth
- Bible
- Light
- Crucifix
- Rosary
- Dove
- Images of Church and Saints

Sample prayers for students to use:

- Dear God, I want to be a friend who loves at all times. Help me to be a loyal friend like Jonathan was to David. Amen
- Dear God, thank you that Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Amen
- Dear God, a true friend is willing to make sacrifices or give things up for their friends. Please help me to be that kind of friend. Amen
- Dear God, You are faithful. I have not been faithful today. Please forgive me and help me to have Your love and faithfulness in my heart. Amen
- Think of a friend who is going through a hard time. Help your child to be a faithful friend by praying for the friend in need. Have your child ask God to show him/her how they can encourage this friend. For example: Dear God, my friend _____ is having a hard time with _____. Can you please show me how I can encourage him/her? Amen.
- Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gift of this day and offer you all we do and say. Help us live in your light and keep us always in your spirit. Amen.

Challenge your students to find and collect images and music that support our faith. Post the images and lyrics at your prayer centre

Quotes about Faith

“A little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but a lot of faith will bring heaven to your soul”. Author Unknown



“Faith makes things possible, not easy”. Author Unknown

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase” Martin Luther King Jr.

“God did not put me down here to be successful. He put me down here to be faithful” Mother Teresa

“I assure you that if you have faith as big as a mustard seed, you can say to this hill, ‘Go from here to there!’ And it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you” Matthew 17:20

Resources to support the Virtue of FAITH

What Happens When I Talk to God—The Power of Prayer for Boys and Girls. Author: Stormie Omartian

The Children’s Illustrated Bible Author: Selena Hastings

The Comic Book Bible. Author: Rob Suggs

Praying in Color. Author: Sybil MacBeth

Children’s Book of Daily Prayers. LTP—Liturgy Training Publications

The Twelve Gifts of Birth. Author: Charlene Costanzo

Jesus Calling—Teen Edition. Author: Charlene Costanzo



God Gave us You. Author: Lisa Tawn Bergren

The Action Bible. Editor: Doug Mauss

A parable About the King. Author: Beth Moore

You Are Special. Author: Max Lucado

Small Gifts in God’s Hands. Author: Max Lucado

What is Heaven Like? Author: Beverly Lewis

The Tale of Three Trees. Author: Hunt Angela Elwell

God’s Dream. Author: Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

Dog Heaven. Author: Cynthia Rylant

The Oak Inside the Acorn. Author: Max Lucado

5

Links to Catholic Graduate Expectations

A Discerning Believer formed in the Catholic Faith Community

Develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic Social Teachings and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and common good

Understands that one’s purpose or call in life comes from God and strives to discern and live out this call throughout life’s journey

A self-directed, responsible lifelong learner

Demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others

A Collaborative Contributor

Finds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good

Respects the rights and responsibilities of self and others

A Reflective and creative lifelong learner

Finds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good

A Responsible Citizen

Contributes to the common good

