

Love (Charity) Prayer Service

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, we gather today to celebrate love. We ask You to guide our actions and inspire us to do Your will at all times. O Lord, we wish to become more charitable through the example of Your Son Jesus Christ. We ask You this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

Old Testament Reading—Micah 6:8

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 112:9

Response: He gives generously to the needy and his kindness never fails

Second Reading—Romans 12:9-13

Gospel Reading—Luke 10:25-37

Optional Activities:

-Chain of Paper Dolls: Bring forth a chain of paper dolls. The chain represents the unity that we all have as human beings. Have students write down a charitable action that they can do to help bring about more fraternal charity in their own life, class, school, community or world.

-Food/clothes/money—bring forth some donated food, clothes or money collected to symbolize our intent to become more charitable towards our neighbours

Universal Prayers:

Response: Lord of love, hear our prayer

- For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love and charity for others, we pray to the Lord
- For the priests of our Diocese, that they may continue to share their gifts with us, we pray to the Lord
- For those who work for peace in our world, that they may continue to do their charitable works, we pray to the Lord
- For our Prime Minister and all our leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, we pray to the Lord
- For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by the love and charity of these surrounding them, let us pray to the Lord
- For the students of our school, that their hearts continue to transform their actions into acts of charity, we pray to the Lord.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, after listening to Your stories and sharing our ideas, we learned that charity is the foundation of Your kingdom on earth. You sent Your only Son Jesus into our world so that we may become more loving. Lead us and give us the strength we need to live our lives in charitable and loving ways towards are neighbours. Help us to put aside our own needs, so that we may seek to do Your will always. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Possible song recommendations: We come to your table, companions on the journey, We are the World , Give a little bit, Heal the world, Man in the mirror, Another day in paradise, Where is the Love, What if

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Northeastern Catholic District School Board

Growing our Faith through virtues

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
VIRTUE: LOVE

The Importance of Love:

An act of love (charity) is an expression of your unselfish love for God or an unlimited loving-kindness towards all others.

The term must not be confused or strictly interpreted as “benevolent giving”. Love is the greatest of all theological virtues. Charity has two parts: love for God above all things and love for man which includes both love for yourself and your neighbour



Faith, Hope and Love are the three theological virtues, and are the foundation of moral activity. Love is superior to all of these virtues. It also draws us closer to God and closer to one another. In order to better understand love, we need to reflect on God's love for man. We see God's love for us as being both **selfless** and **sacrificial**. The greatest demonstra-

tion of these two attributes is evident in the passion of Christ. Before his death, Jesus informs us of his wishes: “My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you” (John 15:13). Jesus loved His disciples and humanity to the end. Love motivates the Christian to do what is right in order to bring about the happiness of God and neighbor. Love is God's gift to us in Baptism. Our model of love is Jesus.

Looks like: serving others, lending a helping hand, sacramental engagement, opening a door for someone, allowing others to go before us, taking care of what belongs to others, helping others in need, praying for our loved ones and for our enemies.

Sounds like: prayer, encouraging someone, complimenting each other, listening to other people's ideas, treating people the way we would like to be treated.

Feels like: Welcoming others, helping others with their feelings, understanding each other, including others, feels like Jesus bringing a cool drink of water on a hot day.

DEVELOPING CHARACTER THROUGH LOVE

The goal of this virtue:

- To love out our first commandment
- To deepen our relationship with Christ
- To base our actions on “unlimited kindness toward all others”
- Being selfless and sacrificial in our daily activities
- A willingness to sacrifice for someone else's well being
- Making other people a priority
- Sharing our time, talents and treasures for the benefit of others
- Forgiving others

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” Matthew 7:2

Scripture readings:

- The golden rule—Matthew 7:12
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25-37
- The Promise of the Holy Spirit—John 14:15-24
- Jesus and Peter—John 21:15-19
- The Gift of Love—1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a, 13
- Rules for the New Life—Ephesians 4:25-32

PRAYER CENTRE IDEAS FOR LOVE



- Create a Y chart for love (charity). What does it look like, sound like and feel like?
- Post pictures of people who exemplify the virtue of love
- Display the words sacrifice and selflessness
- Post visual representations of time, treasures and talent—build on their understanding of love and charity
- Post the first commandment and have students find images/pictures of where they find love in the world

BUILDING LOVE IN OUR HOMES AND SCHOOLS

Understanding charity and the love for others is a gift that we can nurture in our children. Not only will it help children feel good about themselves, it will improve their relationship with Christ and bring true happiness in their lives. A child who learns the importance of sharing their time, treasures and talents will be better able to sympathize with those in need.

Sharing Their Time:

Children can demonstrate their love to others by sacrificing their time volunteering, baking cookies for classmates, helping others

Sharing Their Talents:

Children can share their talents with others by reading to a younger sibling, teaching a younger student to tie his/her shoes, playing the piano for the elderly, helping another student or sibling with a math problem.

Sharing Their Treasures:

Children can share their treasures by donating toys for a toy drive, using their allowance to buy a loved one a present, choosing their favourite canned goods to donate to the food bank.

“Charity, to be fruitful must cost us” Mother Teresa

Teaching of Love in the Bible

- Leviticus 19:18
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Mark 12:28-31
- John 13:34-35
- Romans 13:8-10

Catholic Symbols of our Love:

- Green cloth
- Bible
- Statues of Saints who intercede for us out of love
- Crucifix
- Mary and a Rosary
- Lamp—eternal flame of charity
- Prayer of St. Francis

And the greatest is LOVE

Jesus’ most important message while he was on earth can be summed up in one word: love. In the gospel of Paul, we can read and reflect on love:

“Be under obligation to no one—the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law. The commandments “Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else” - all these, and many others besides, are summed up in the lone command. “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” If you love others you will never do them wrong; to love them is to obey the whole law. (Paul 3:8-10)

Different ways to pray—Breathing prayer

Invite students to being the habit of breathing in God’s love and breathing out anything that may be worrying them. Each time they take a breath, encourage them to feel the unconditional love of God surrounding them.

Breathe in the courage of God...breathe out any fears

Breathe in the forgiveness and strength of God...breathe out any grudges and anger

Breathe in God’s joy and peace...breathe out any sadness you may feel inside

Breathe in the love and compassion of God...breathe out any selfishness

Bulletin Board Ideas:

Charity

-Large bubble letters “Charity”. Inside the letters have students illustrate actions that depict charity and love.

Charitable Donations

-Take up a collection to give to a charitable organization such as Development and Peace, Terry Fox or the Food bank. The display would be visible in the school

I Know God Loves Me Because

-Have students write on stickie notes a way that they feel God’s love. Large letters “I know God loves me because....”

Love letters from God

God has a letter written for you everyday, but it isn’t found in a cute mailbox—it is in the Bible. Students find examples of love in their life and/or from the Bible to post on bulletin board with mailbox.

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony”
Colossians 3:14

Quotes about LOVE

“To love someone is to show to them their beauty, their worth and their importance” Jean Vanier



“Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible” - St. Francis of Assisi

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” - Matthew 5:44

“If you judge people, you have no time to love them” Mother Teresa

“We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love” Jean Vanier

“The Gospel speaks the language of love” Bishop Serge Poitras

“We must love our neighbor as being made in the image of God as an object of His love “ Saint Vincent de Paul

Resources to support the Virtue of LOVE

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? Author: Carol McCloud

I Doko. Author: Ed Young

My Heart Will Not Sit Down. Author: Mara Rockliff

The Teddy Bear. Author: David McPhail

The Christmas Candle. Author: Richard Paul Evans

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Author: Mary Kathleen Glavich

Lily and the Paper Man. Author: Rebecca UpJohn

Come Follow Me—A Child’s Guide to Faith, Hope and Charity. Author: Karmel Newell



God Gave Us Love. Author: Lisa T. Bergren

The Rag Coat. Author: Lauren Mills

The Giving Tree. Author: Shel Silverstein

The Quiltmaker’s Gift. Author: Jeff Brumbeau

The Selfish Giant. Author: Oscar Wilde

A Chair for my Mother. Author: Vera B Williams

The Gift. Author: Aliana Brodmann

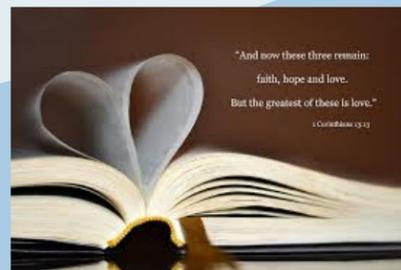
Something from Nothing. Author: Phoebe Gilman

Ribbon Rescue. Author: Robert Munsch

Guess how much I love you. Author: Robert Munsch

Horton Hears a Who. Author: Dr. Seuss

Horton Hatches the Egg. Author: Dr.



“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”
1 Corinthians 13:13

5 Links to Catholic Graduate Expectations

A Discerning Believer formed in the Catholic Faith Community
Actively reflects on God’s Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures

Seeks intimacy with God and celebrate communion with God, others and creation through prayer and worship

An Effective Communicator
Listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of Gospel Values

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 Thinker
Recognizes there is more grace in our work than sin and that hope is essential in facing all challenges

A Caring Family Member
Relates to family members in a loving, compassionate and respectful manner