
Catholic Education:
We Are
Called To
Love



**"If we love one another, God lives in us."
(1 John 4:12)**

January Prayer Service

As people of faith

*"Faith makes us open to the quiet presence of God at every moment of our lives, in every person and in every situation."
Pope Francis*



Suggested Opening Songs

Holding on by The Brilliance

Whom Shall I Fear by Chris Tomlinson

Faith by Jordan Feliz

Let it Be by The Beatles



Opening Prayer

Good and loving God,
We need your help to be strong in our faith.
You have given us this gift of faith, may your love continue to enrich our spirits
so that we may bring the Good News to all those we meet.
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.
Amen.



Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has epilepsy and suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.” Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured from that moment. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. ***R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***



Questions for Personal Reflection

Have you ever experienced a time when you tried to do something on your own, and then realized that you needed help from another person or God?

How has your faith in God helped you to “move a mountain?” Have you experienced a difficult situation or challenge where your faith got you through it?

Does it surprise you that we only need the “faith of a mustard seed” to overcome our difficulties and challenges?

A mustard seed needs water, good soil, and sun to grow. What can you do to grow your faith?



Contemporary Reading

The word faith is often understood as accepting something you can't understand. People often say: "Such and such can't be explained, you simply have to believe it." However, when Jesus talks about faith, he means first of all to trust unreservedly that you are loved, so that you can abandon every false way of obtaining love. It's a question here of trusting in God's love. The Greek word for faith is pistis, which means, literally, "trust." Whenever Jesus says to people he has healed: "Your faith has saved you," he is saying that they have found new life because they have surrendered in complete trust to the love of God revealed in him.

Henri Nouwen
Show Me the Way: Daily Lenten Readings



Questions for Guided Reflection

How does your own faith reflect your trust in God's love?

What makes it difficult to trust in God's love?

Where was God's presence evident in your life this year?

How can you bring God's love to your family, friends, students, and colleagues?



Closing Prayer

Lord God,
Strengthen Your gift of faith in us.
Please help us to have confidence in Your goodness and Your faithfulness.
Help us to overcome life's challenges and lead us along the path You have
prepared for us.
May we find courage and peace in Your love, and may our faith in You serve as
an example for others.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Suggested Closing Songs

Testify to Love by Wynonna

Hold on to Love by Jesse Manibusan

