
Catholic Education:
We Are
Called To
Love



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

February Prayer Service

As people of mercy

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



Suggested Opening Songs

Open the Eyes of My Heart by Paul Baloché – Lord, Lift Up Your Hearts #537

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idQ1n3cdgfo>

Loving and Forgiving by Scott Soper – Glory & Praise #413

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qo73k3yGX5Y>

A Listening Heart by Bob Hurd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT36Zn73tWc>



Opening Prayer

Loving God,

May we embrace the call to love in a deep and profound way so that we can be examples of mercy and compassion to others.

Fill our hearts with compassion, kindness and forgiveness, so that we may reflect your boundless love to those around us.

May we be instruments of your peace and reconciliation in the world.

Amen.



Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians.

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

The Word of the Lord. ***R. Thanks be to God.***



Questions for Personal Reflection

In this letter to the Colossians, St. Paul offers us some specific qualities with which we are invited to “clothe ourselves” in order to love as people of mercy:

Compassion
Kindness
Humility
Gentleness
Patience
Tolerance
Forgiveness and
Peacefulness

Which of these qualities am I able to reflect most easily? Which ones do I find most challenging? Which one of the qualities would others (friends, colleagues, family members, students, etc.), say I reflect very well?

How do we as a school community promote and affirm these qualities in our interactions with one another?

Consider the importance of forgiveness. How does holding onto a grudge affect our spiritual and emotional wellbeing? Is there someone I am struggling to forgive? What might help me let go of resentments so that I can forgive as Christ forgives us?



Readings

“Mountaineers, as they climb mountains, sing a very beautiful song whose words go like this:
“in the art of climbing, it is not important that you do not fall down, but that you do not stay down. If you are weak, if you fall, look up a little for there is Jesus’ hand extended to you as he says: “Rise up, come with me.” And what if I fall again? Rise again. And what if I fall yet again?
Rise yet again.”

-Pope Francis, World Youth Day, Poland, 28th July 2016

“You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error; let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.”

-excerpted from Pope Francis, Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, 2016



Questions for Reflection

What implications can these readings have for you and your relationships with others at school/work? At home? In your parish? What implications can they have for your relationship with God? How might these readings be a source of comfort or hope for someone who is struggling?

How can mercy inspire us to rise up again when faced with challenges or setbacks?

How can God's compassion, grace and love inspire you in word and deed be the visible face of God in your community?



Closing Prayer

Loving God,

Help us live out in our daily lives, the mercy which you constantly extend to all of us.

As you cast open the doors of your heart to us, may we respond with urgency to
proclaim your mercy to others.

May we always be credible witnesses to mercy, professing it and living it as the core
of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

May we never tire of extending mercy and be ever patient in offering compassion and
comfort.

May we become the voice of every man and woman and repeat confidently without
end, "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord and your steadfast love, for they have been
from of old."

(Ps. 25:6)

Amen.



Suggested Closing Songs

Your Grace is Enough by Matt Maher – Spirit and Song, Volume 9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpYtYYaTFGQ>

Love One Another by Bob Dufford, SJ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j00nL_6oAPQ

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy – In Balilone, CBW II #443

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmm6IAarriw>

