



FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
JANUARY
Generosity ~ b nignit 

“We are blessed with Christ’s Generosity.
The fruit of Generosity enables us to live and practice the art of giving;
giving of one’s time, one’s energy, and one’s love.”

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish
but may have eternal life.”*

JOHN 3.16



THEORY OF ACTION

*“If we value the reality of God’s image present in each other,
then students will recognize their goodness in being created in the likeness of God.”*



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

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Definition

 **Looks Like:** Helping a friend, giving of your time, contributing to the world in any way that you can, food drives, coin drives.

 **Sounds Like:** Offering to help, words of encouragement.

 **Feels Like:** Kindness, worthiness, warmth, love, importance, and appreciation.

Prayer Table Ideas

 **Catholic Symbols:**

- o Bible
- o Candle
- o Crucifix
- o Cloth – White

 **Fruit of ‘Generosity’ Symbols:**

- o **Hands** – To symbolize the act of giving
- o **Books** – Any book that discusses or presents the topic of ‘generosity’
- o **Piggy Bank/Food Item** – To symbolize donations of generosity
- o **Picture of Mother Teresa** – A profound symbol of generosity

 **7 Grandfather Teachings:**

Debwewin – TRUTH: Speak the truth and do not deceive yourself. Be generous with others. The Turtle is the symbol of truth. Slow down the pace of your life. Faster is not always the best way to reach your goals.

Traditional Prayer of the Month

 **Prayer of Generosity – Saint Ignatius of Loyola**

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
Teach me true generosity.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve.
To give without counting the cost,
To fight heedless of wounds,
To labor without seeking rest,
To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward
Save the knowledge that I have done your will.
Amen.

 **La prière de Saint Ignace de Loyola de générosité**

Cher Seigneur, apprends-moi à être généreux. Apprends-moi à vous servir comme vous le méritez; donner et ne pas faire compter le coût, se battre et de ne pas tenir compte des blessures, à peiner et ne pas de demander pour le reste, du travail et de ne pas demander de récompense enregistrer que de savoir que je fais sera votre.
Amen.

Daily Prayers

1

Did You Know? Today is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Today the church celebrates the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Throughout the church year, we celebrate many events relating to Mary, but today we celebrate Mary as Mother on a day that is traditionally a day to pray for world peace. Today is a Holy Day of Obligation in Canada.

Let us remember the Mother of God by reciting the Hail Mary. Hail Mary....

2

Dear God,
Help me to be generous. Help me to be kind and do good deeds. Help me to show people how much I love them. Amen.

3

Gracious God,
Please bless all of those who work, attend, and enter our school. May they feel Your generous love through each person they meet. Amen.

4

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for making us generous people. Teach me to be kind to others, to take turns, to be patient and share with those I call my friends. Amen.

5

Dear Lord,
I am excited about the possibilities of this day. I want to be generous with my time, my words and my actions. Help me to be a kind and caring friend and to always share the light you have placed within me with the world. Amen.

6

Generous God,
Long ago you showed Jesus to the rest of the world through the eyes of the three kings. As we observe this time of Epiphany, help us also to reveal your Son to those around us by our words, and our generous actions. May our lives and our faith show the world how much You love us. Amen.

7

Dear God,
Today we pray for this New Year. We pray that we will resolve ourselves to make good choices, to be good sons and daughters, and good friends. Lord help me to fulfill my duty to myself to become a more caring person. Amen.

8

Dear God,
Thank you for the joy of laughter. Thank you for the little things that make us smile and brighten our days. We are so very lucky to receive Your grace and glory. Thank you for Your mercy and for Your belief in us that we can do, be, and accomplish anything. Amen.

9

Dear Lord,
Thank you for our generous parents, teachers, and friends. Remind our hearts of how lucky we are to have such loving and caring people in our lives. Amen.

10

Dear God,
Help us to be more willing to give what we don't need to those who are in need. Help us to soften our words and our hearts towards others. Help us de-clutter our lives with the things that we don't need. Help us to be more mindful of the things that we need, not the things that we may want. Amen.

11

Dear God,
You send the Holy Spirit into our lives to help show us the way. We know we are accountable for our actions and decisions, but we ask You for Your Holy guidance. Like Jesus, may we know the Spirit's presence in our lives. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

12

Creator God,
Thank you for our teachers who help us to see the world, to dream about our future, and to reach for the stars. They have a great responsibility to help us to be the best we can be. Let us help our teachers by working hard in everything that we attempt today. Protect our teachers and help them to be examples of God's love. Amen.

13

Sanctifying God,
You have given us so many gifts. How can we ever repay You for the miracle of the beauty in our lives. You are an ever loving and generous God. Please remain by our side as we venture through the ups and downs of our day. Help us to be dedicated and focused. Amen.

14

Ever Loving God,
You have given us many talents to discover in our lives. Teach us to search out our talents and to be generous and share our gifts with the world. Thank you for giving us so many gifts. Amen.

15

Dear God,
Many times we think of ourselves over others. Help us to be mindful of those around us and to be constantly aware of those close to us and those around the world that may need our help. Bless us with graciousness and love and teach us to be more like You. Amen.

16

Heavenly Father,
The beauty of the universe is all around us. You generously entrusted us to care for this natural beauty of the planet. Today, we are reminded that we each have a duty to keep the water pure, the air free, and the land fertile. Please help us to remember the importance of Your generous gift to us. Amen.

17

Dear God,

Thank you for those who have generously dedicated their lives to the service of others. Help them to continue to feel Your blessings as they work in our communities, and in the communities around the world. Remind them of the importance of their selfless acts. Amen.

18

Creator God,

Thank you for all of the new life in the springtime. Thank you for showing us the miracles of new life and for reminding us that we are all the miracle of Your love. Help us to care for all of the new budding trees, flowers, and all examples of life that surround us. You have taught us the importance of taking care of what is special and important. Amen.

19

Dear Lord,

Help us to be generous to others. Help us to solve our problems with words of kindness, not with hurtful actions. Help us to believe in You. Let our actions of generosity be a reward from us to You. You are our Holy Maker and Creator, and help us when we need it the most. Amen.

20

God,

Thank you for allowing me to take part in this kind and caring world. Thank you for the loving, kind, and generous people that live here. I am generous when I love others back, or when I help out without being asked. Help me to continue to be generous to everyone I love. Amen.

21

Gracious Father,

Help us to be better children to our parents. Help us to be respectful, kind and obedient to those who care for us with love and generosity. God, help us to share this generosity with our brothers and sisters in our world. Amen.

22

Dear God,

We respect our political leaders because they have a duty to work for peace and justice through the offices they hold. Let us pray that their work brings peace, prosperity, and generosity to all people in nations around the world. Let our politicians accept and honor the great responsibility that has been given to them. Amen.

23

Dear Jesus,

Remind us to accept our duty to live the message of Jesus in our daily lives by volunteering within our community; by following the school's code of conduct, by praying to You from our hearts, and by loving our parents as God loves us. Help us Jesus, to keep these promises we make. Amen.

24

Dear Lord,

Today let us pray for those that are living abroad. May they be the recipient of generosity, love, and acceptance and may they feel a sense of belonging wherever they may go. Amen.

25

Did You Know? Today is the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle. On his way to Damascus to arrest Christians, St. Paul was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of our Lord. St. Paul is also known as, "The Great Apostle of the Gentiles". 14 of his Letters are found in the New Testament.

Heavenly Father,

Help us to change for the better. Change brings new life, and it is only through changing that we grow. Let us learn from the life of St. Paul that change can help us become better and more generous people. Remind us that we have a task to grow and that we need to take advantage of opportunities for change. Amen.

26

Dear God,

Thank You for being generous with music. Thank you for allowing us to hear it and to be generous enough to share the music in our heart with others. Amen.

27

Lord,

Thank you for making the church a generous place to be. Thank you for our priests who give so much of their time and energy to our school communities. May our home, parish, and school communities continue to grow in relationship with You under the guidance of Your Generous Spirit. Amen.

28

Did You Know? Today is the memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, a holy man who had a very difficult life. His sister was killed by lightning, his parents abandoned him, and his classmates called him names. He later became a Dominican priest who continued to work hard, pray deeply and love God with his whole heart. He wrote many volumes about the greatness of God, and is held by the Roman

Catholic Church to be the model teacher for those studying for the priesthood. He is the patron saint of students and universities, is a doctor of the church, and today his works are studied all over the world.

St. Thomas Aquinas Prayer

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all being, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding. Take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of sin and ignorance. Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prière de Saint Thomas d'Aquin avant l'étude

Créateur ineffable, Vous êtes la vraie source de la lumière et de la sagesse. Daignez répandre Votre clarté sur l'obscurité de mon intelligence ; chassez de moi les ténèbres du péché et de l'ignorance. Donnez moi :

La pénétration pour comprendre,
La mémoire pour retenir,
La méthode et la facilité pour apprendre,
La lucidité pour interpréter,
Une grâce abondante pour m'exprimer,
Aidez le commencement de mon travail,
Dirigez en le progrès,
Couronnez en la fin,
Par Jésus Christ Notre Seigneur,
Amen.

29

Lord Jesus,
Teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve to be served, to give without counting the cost, to fight without fear of being wounded, to work without seeking rest, to spend myself without expecting any reward but the knowledge that I am doing Your holy will. Amen.

30

Dear God,
As we reflect back on this month, we are reminded of the generous opportunities we have experienced in our lives. We thank you for Fruits of the Holy Spirit, especially the fruit of generosity, which allows us to see the world as a place for us to give as well as to experience the happiness of receiving. Help us to continue to grow the fruit of generosity within us. Amen.

31

Gracious God,
Give us generous hearts; to share whatever gifts it is that You have given us: to acknowledge You as the giver of all good gifts; to give without counting the cost; to share without expecting something in return; to grow in giving thanks for everything; to be happy with having what we need and wise enough to know what it is we want and do not need; to fall more deeply in love with the God of all generosity so that our hearts are strong enough to give away freely whatever is asked. We ask this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

Prayer Service / Non Eucharistic Liturgy



Non Eucharistic Symbols

Piggy Bank: To symbolize donations of generosity.

Paper Hands: To symbolize the act of giving.

Candle: To symbolize the light of Christ.

Picture of Mother Teresa: To symbolize someone who lived a life of complete generosity.



Opening Prayer Gathering

Dear Lord,

We gather today to celebrate Generosity. By celebrating Generosity, we are celebrating the generous actions of those in our neighbourhood, school and parish communities. By being generous we learn the importance of giving, the importance of listening, and the importance of the sharing of our time. As we pray today may we be reminded of the generosity of Your love; Your patience, Your mercy, and, Your grace. May we be reminded to be a living example of Your love and generosity, through the act of giving, listening, sharing, and loving.

Amen.



Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 15.7-11

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, "The seventh year, the year of remission, is near," and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

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



Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 27

The response to the psalm is *“Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.”*

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
Who greatly delight in his commandments
Their descendents will be mighty in the land;
The generation of the upright will be blessed. *R*

Wealth and riches are in their houses,
And their righteousness endures forever.
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright,
They are gracious, merciful, and righteous. *R*

It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
Who conduct their affairs with justice,
For the righteous will never be moved,
They will be remembered forever. *R*



Second Reading (Optional)
2 Corinthians 9.6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

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



Gospel Reading
Luke 12.13-15

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; For one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

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



Optional Activities

Circle of Hands: Bring forth a collection of hands intertwined together symbolizing the act of giving. Have students write on each hand a way they can show generosity in the schools, their community's and their parish.

Piggy Bank: Present a class piggy bank to symbolize the act of giving to those who are in need.

A Wrapped Gift: Bring forth a wrapped gift to symbolize the selfless act of giving.



Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

After reading your words, and spending time with you this day in prayer, we have learned that through generosity and love we are creating a better world for not only ourselves but for everyone on our planet. You were generous to send Your Son Jesus to teach us how to give of our love, our time, and our worldly possessions. You have shown us by example, how to give. Help us to put aside our selfishness and to only use what we need, to give to those who are in need, and to not pass judgment on those who require our assistance. Help us to become good leaders in this world and to be generous to Your children the way You taught us to be. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Possible Song Recommendations

Liturgical

All that I Am

Father I Have Sinned

I Am Your God

If I Were A Butterfly

Thank you Lord On This Day

Whatsoever You Do

City of God

Non-Liturgical

Generous ~ Natalie Merchant

Give It Away ~ Paul Brandt

Help ~ The Beatles

Man in the Mirror ~ Michael Jackson

Kind and Generous ~ Natalie Merchant

Give and it will be Given ~ Chris Springer

With My Own Two Hands ~ Jack Johnson

Universal Prayer

Response: *Generous Lord, hear our prayer.*

✝ For our holy father on earth, all the bishops and clergy everywhere, that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others in our journey to live a life of love and generosity, we pray. *℟*

✝ For women, men and children in this world who suffer from hunger, thirst, and who are in need, we pray. *℟*

✝ For the world, that the generosity of Christ's love will touch every human heart and help transform the world, we pray. *℟*

✝ For the people of our own community, our parish and our school, that they will be an example of Christ's generosity and love. Help us to give, to comfort, and to love all those we meet, we pray. *℟*

✝ For those who are sick and those who are dying. May they experience the generous love and healing that Your word brings during their time of suffering, we pray. *℟*

✝ We pray that through the grace of Jesus, that we might open our own hearts to the act of giving, and truly see others in the light of Christ's love. May we be living examples of your generous love, we pray. *℟*

Curriculum Connections



Primary

LS2.1: Examine selected Gospel narratives to identify ways that Jesus promoted the dignity of the poor and the outcast by restoring and healing their social relationships (e.g. the healing narratives, the meal narratives) and link human dignity to being made in God's image.

[CCC nos. 1877-1896] (1)

LS1.3: Identify and communicate using specific examples from the lives of the students what it means to be sent forth from the Mass with the exhortation (i.e. encouragement) to ... "go in peace to love and serve the Lord".

[CCC nos. 1391-1401] (2)



Junior

LS1.1: Identify through the Letters of St. Paul (i.e. the analogy of the body 1 Cor. 12:12-31; Romans 12:3-8) the key characteristics of what it means to be Church and explain the importance of recognizing, developing, and willingly sharing our gifts and talents in order to give witness to Christ.

[CCC nos. 1897-1904] (5)

LS1.2: Describe the call of Christian 'vocation' received in baptism (i.e. everyone is called to serve society, to discern their gifts and talents and to be united in making a contribution in the world) and determine ways we can respond to this call as young people.

[CCC nos. 1262-1284; 1897-1927] (6)



Intermediate

LS2: Focus: Principle of Human Solidarity

Understand that the principle of human solidarity is a Christian social virtue which promotes the individual and communal sharing of material and spiritual goods, and obligates us to seek individual and communal conversion.

[CCC nos. 1928-1948] (7)

LS1: Understand that the principle of human dignity, revealed in Scripture (i.e. the belief that the human person is made in the image and likeness of God) requires Christians to work for the common good of all people (i.e. respect for the social nature of the human person) and to participate in society.

[CCC nos. 1877-1885] (8)

Bulletin Board Ideas



The Giving Tree Bulletin Board

- o Brainstorm ways in which students can show generosity.
- o Have students create a tree to be placed on the bulletin board.
- o Title the bulletin Board “Our Giving Tree” Students will add a leaf to the tree each time they do a generous deed for someone in need.
- o Students will challenge themselves to fill the tree with leaves and help change the world.
- o Students will challenge others in their school to contribute to their Giving Tree Bulletin Board by doing a good deed.



“What Would You Give?” Bulletin Board

- o Title the Bulletin Board “What Would You Give?”
- o Pin on bulletin board the student’s pictures with speech bubbles that state what they would give. Example: I would give my time to someone who is lonely, I would give someone a snack that didn’t have one, I would give all of my coins to the food drive to help feed the poor.
- o Have the students pledge their commitment of giving to those in need on a classroom pledge and place on Bulletin Board.



“Come Take My Hand”

- o Title bulletin board “Come Take My Hand”.
- o Have students cut out their hands using different colours of paper.
- o Intertwine their hands in the shape of a circle with a class mission statement that reads “We Are All Connected. We will use our hands to help change the world we live in, by giving, by loving, and by sharing.



Giving People

- o Have students research a person who modelled generosity in their lives, through their words, and through their actions. Write a short biography of what they did in their lives and the contribution they made to make the world a better place. Create a bulletin board titled “Giving People” and display biographies.
 - Possible Examples: Mother Teresa, Princess Diana, Nelson Mandela, Mohandas Gandhi, Oprah Winfrey, Pope John Paul II, St. Francis of Assisi

Quotes

Religious



“And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” ~ Matt 10.42



“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” ~ 2 Corinthians 9.7



“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.”
~ Proverbs 19.17



“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus for he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” ~ Acts 20.35



“Do onto others, as you would have them do unto you” – The Golden Rule.
~ Mark 9.23.24

Non-Religious



“No one has ever become poor by giving.” ~ Ann Frank



“Give yourself entirely to those around you. Be generous with your blessings. A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.”
~ Steve Maraboli



“The value of a man resides in what he gives, not in what he is capable of receiving.”
~ Albert Einstein



“If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.” ~ Mother Teresa



“Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.”
~ Kahil Gibran



“For it is in giving that we receive.” ~ St. Francis of Assisi

Short Resource List

- ❖ When Stories Fell like Shooting Stars – Valiska Gregory (P/J)
- ❖ Sam and the Lucky Money – Karen Chinn (P/J)
- ❖ An Orange for Frankie – Patricia Polacco (P/J)
- ❖ Boxes for Katie – Candace Fleming Levine (P/J)
- ❖ The Giving Tree – Shel Silverstein (P/J/I)
- ❖ The Quiltmaker’s Gift – Jeff Beumbeau (P/J)
- ❖ A Chance to Shine – Steve Seskin (P/J/I)
- ❖ Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed – Emily Pearson (P/I/J)
- ❖ What Does Peace Feel Like? – Vladimir Raduansky (P/J/I)
- ❖ Those Shoes – Maribeth Boelts (J/I)
- ❖ Enemy Pie – Derek Munson (P/J/I)
- ❖ Have You Filled a Bucket Today? – Carol McCloud (P/J/I)
- ❖ All You Will Ever Need – Max Lucado (P/J)
- ❖ The Rainbow Fish – Marcus Pfister (P/J)

