



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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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

Generous God,
Teach me to be generous as You have been generous with me. Teach me that all I am and have are gifts from You. And gifts, Lord, are meant to be shared. Show me the joys of generosity. Help me to understand that others. Make me a gift to others in Your name.
Amen.

3

Generous God,
You came to show us that the meaning of life consists in giving. You told us that those who cling too tightly to what they have, without thought of You or others, end up losing everything. You offered us new values by which to measure the worth of a person's life. Help us to realize it is not temporal success, or riches, or fame that gives life meaning. Rather, it is the service rendered to You and others that brings fulfillment and makes our lives worthwhile. Amen.

4

Generous God,
May all our service help build the kingdom of God, and may our obedience bring true freedom, our generosity increase love, our sacrifices bear much fruit, and our death lead to eternal life.
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

Heavenly Father,
We pray that generosity and grace would be hallmarks of our school so others may see You in us. Please show us who the poor and needy are in our community so we can share our wealth with them. We ask that our generosity would result in others giving thanks to You. Amen.

8

Heavenly Father,

May we find joy in refreshing others by being generous with our possessions. You modeled true selflessness when You died on the cross. You gave Your life away. May our generous kindness to others be a testimony that You are living in us. Amen.

9

Heavenly Father,

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; and to spend myself without expecting any reward, but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will. 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

Gracious God,

Let us be grateful for our families and friends and the opportunities and lessons we have learned. Let us never lose sight of the simple blessings that form the fabric and foundation of my life. We are blessed, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Amen.

13

Gracious God,

May we be blessed today to have food to eat, clothes to wear, and shelter from the elements. May we remember that there are many people who do not have these blessings, May we be grateful enough to help others when we can. Amen.

14

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.

15

Gracious God,

Let your eye be on those who are homeless; those who feel forgotten and left by the side of the road. Ease the pain in their bodies and their souls. Surround them with your love so they do not fall into anger or despair. Give them the assurance that they have a home in your heart even when they are without one in this world. Place an urgency in the hearts of those who have homes, to give dignity to those who do not. Help us engage and encounter one another without blame or judgment. Help us care for one another with the compassion of heaven, so that no one is left without a space of restfulness and comfort. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

16

Loving God,

There are so many who live alone in this world without family to encourage them, listen to them, support them. Yet, you have blessed me by placing me within a family that gives depth and meaning to my life – a family that offers me love no matter what I do or do not do. Fill my heart with the gratitude that never takes such a blessing for granted. When I am thoughtless or careless in my relationships with those you have given me, give me the grace to ask for forgiveness. When I feel hurt, give me the grace to forgive and forget the wrong. In times of joy with my family, give me a heart of gladness. In times of sorrow, give me a heart of compassion. May we offer each other the same love you give to us as your children. I ask this with a thankful heart for all that you have given me. Amen.

17

Gracious God,

Sometimes we see our life as an unsolvable puzzle. Our days move along rapidly, but the people and situations we encounter seem to make no sense. We consider and weigh carefully the decisions we think we should make, but find ourselves doing something completely opposite of what we thought we have decided. Then a moment of stillness comes, and we realize that all these random strands are actually part of the beautiful tapestry that is the journey of our life, and we are so grateful. Thank you, God, for leading me in paths we may never choose, and for giving the journey of our life a rich texture. Amen.

18

Gracious God,

We are grateful for the gift of love. The gift that alone makes life worth living. The gift that helps us value ourselves and our world. This gift gives us the courage and desire to reach out to others. Wake us up to the movement of love that runs like fresh water through every crevice of life. Help us drink deeply of your love and offer others drink from the same well. We ask this for the sake of your name and the reality of your love. Amen.

19

Gracious God,

Thank you for the diversity of people that surround us. In the ideas, in the hopes, in the dreams, and in the struggles of those who share this life, let us find that through a community of people, We are made fuller and more alive. Let the fullness given by community give us the courage to offer our own unique self with humility to the lives of others. As we all share in the life that you have so graciously given us, may we be the lights of your love to one another. Amen.

20

Loving God,

When our life is moving along at break-neck speed, we feel so distracted from the things that are really important to our heart and soul. It seems like our lack of focus keeps us from paying attention to what really nourishes us. Help us learn to give less priority to what only leaves us feeling empty. Remind us that when we give priority to what is really important everything else falls into place with greater ease. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

21

Loving God,

When unexpected trouble bursts unbidden and unwanted into our life, give us a patient heart and a sure sense of your care and love. Help us remember that even when life feels unfair, your presence still surrounds and sustains us and for this we are truly grateful. The knotted parts of our being are never outside the reach of your touch. Give us faith to surrender our need for fairness, knowing that even in chaos, the eye of heaven is still turned towards us. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

22

Gracious God,

Open our eyes and heart to the many graces and blessings that blanket our life with joy. Help our souls awaken with the gratitude that will make us attentive and expectant for the imprint of your hand in our world. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

23

Gracious God,

Help us to live a life of true charity, to think kindly of other people and to wish them well. Help us also to look for the good in each person, for it is the good that we are to love, rather than any externals. This we ask in your name sake, Amen.

24

Generous God,

You are around us every minute of every day. We thank you for your presence, generosity and love. May we continue to appreciate all that You have given us. We pray that we will continue to grow in our faith and be closer to you. 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

Generous God,

We give thanks for your generous gifts. We ask for your blessings and wisdom, so that we may be stewards of all your creation. Help us to care for the earth, appreciate its beauty and to teach others to be grateful for your gifts. We give thanks. Amen.

27

Loving God,

Grant us to greet this day with peace. Help us in all things to rely upon Your holy will. Teach us to treat all that comes to us throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm conviction that Your will governs all. Teach us to act firmly, wisely and truthfully. May we continue to be aware of the suffering of others, to feel empathy and compassion and to find ways to alleviate their suffering. 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

Dear God,
Today we pray that we can:
Take time to think for it is the source of power.
Take time to pray for it is the greatest power on earth.
Take time to be friendly for it is the road to happiness.
Take time to give for it is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to do charity for it is the key to heaven. We ask this in Your name.
Amen.

30

Dear God,
You are a source of serenity for us. When struggles and difficulties threaten to overwhelm us, we know that we can always turn to you. When we doubt ourselves or feel helpless, may we always remember that we can turn to You for strength, hope and comfort. 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



Generosity:

"Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age." (1 Timothy 6.18-19)



Opening Prayer

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 112**

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 descendants 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.*

Universal Prayer

Response: *God of all people, hear our prayer.*

For the Pope, our Bishop, and all the clergy, that they may continue to model generosity throughout this world. We pray to the Lord. *℟*

For all Christians, may we be humble stewards of the gifts given to us by God, and may we set an example of mercy and generosity by becoming involved in efforts to distribute the worlds wealth among all of those in need. We pray to the Lord. *℟*

For our friends and family who love us, care for our needs, listen to us in our desperation, comfort us in our sorrow, advise us with caring concern, and, by their selflessness, bring us closer to God, We pray to the Lord. *℟*

Lord, instill in our heart a spirit of generosity and compassion. Help us to be open to ways that can make a difference in our school and communities, by being generous with our abilities. We pray to the Lord. *℟*

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.

Catechism of the Catholic Church Reference – Generosity



CCC #1832

The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity."



CCC #1844

By charity, we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for love of God. Charity, the form of all the virtues, "binds everything together in perfect harmony".



CCC #1889

Without the help of grace, men would not know how "to discern the often narrow path between the cowardice which gives in to evil, and the violence which under the illusion of fighting evil only makes it worse." This is the path of charity, that is, of the love of God and of neighbor. Charity is the greatest social commandment. It respects others and their rights. It requires the practice of justice, and it alone makes us capable of it. Charity inspires a life of self-giving: "Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it."



CCC #1939

The principle of solidarity, also articulated in terms of "friendship" or "social charity," is a direct demand of human and Christian brotherhood.



CCC #2447

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.



CCC #2462

Giving alms to the poor is a witness to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

Scriptural References to Faithfulness



Luke 12.13-15

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.”



Matthew 10.42

“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.”



2 Corinthians 9.7

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



Proverbs 19.17

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



Acts 20.35

“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.”



The Golden Rule

“Do onto others, as you would have them do unto you.”

Quotes on Faithfulness



“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.”

~ Mother Teresa



“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



“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

Prayer Table Ideas



Catholic Symbols:

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



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.



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.