

Prayer Service to Celebrate Love and Family

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, and welcome to our prayer service. Today we will pray and reflect on God's gifts of love and family.

OPENING SONG

Please join in our opening song:

Sugg: *Prayer of St. Francis, Peace Prayer, Children of the Light* [see also closing song suggestions])

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray. God our Father, we thank you for your great love; we thank you for our families. Open our hearts to listen to your word and to praise you with one voice. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name. Amen

And now, let us be attentive to God's word.

READING

A reading from the First Letter of John (1Jn 4:7-9,11-12)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Please respond with the words, *God's love shines in us.*

When we act with kindness,

God's love shines in us.

When we share our time and talents,

God's love shines in us.

When we let others play with us,

God's love shines in us.

When we say good things about people,

God's love shines in us.

When we stand up for one another,
God's love shines in us.

When we are kind to our brothers and sisters,
God's love shines in us.

When we help our parents around the house,
God's love shines in us.

When we set a good example for our brothers and sisters,
God's love shines in us.

When we show respect to our parents and teachers,
God's love shines in us.

READING

Let us listen to a reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (Jn 13:34-35)
Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Jesus gave his followers a new commandment to love one another, just as he loves us. This is how we show we are followers of Jesus – by our love for one another. We show we are followers of Jesus in our homes, by being patient and kind to one another, by helping instead of fighting and by caring for one another. Patience, kindness, helping and caring are ways we show we are followers of Jesus, and these things make for a happy, peaceful home.

We show we are followers of Jesus in our school by making sure everyone has someone to play with, by our kind words, by our respect and by our good example. These things make for a happy, peaceful school.

OPTIONAL: SONG

Suggested: *What Makes Love Grow* (Carey Landry), *Prayer of St. Francis*,
Peace Prayer, *Children of the Light*

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us turn now to God with all our needs. The response to each petition is, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the Church. That everyone who follows Jesus might grow in loving one another as he has loved us. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the world. That God will give all his children the grace they need to live in Christ's love and peace. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for people who suffer without love or without a family. That God will send them kind hands and hearts to reach out and welcome them with the love of Jesus. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our families. That God will take care of our brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents and all our family members, and help all of us to live in his love and peace. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves. That each of us will grow as followers of Jesus, and make our Catholic school a place of his love and peace. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all our needs – those in our hearts and for all those in our home-school-parish community. We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

And now, let us turn to God the Father with love and trust, using the words that Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, we thank you for the gift of love that you have poured out on us in Jesus, your Son. Help us to grow each day as his followers, with great love for one another, and great love for our families. May our growing love and kindness be a sign of your love at work in our lives. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Please join in our closing song: (Suggested – *Here I Am, Lord* #520 CBWIII; *Blest are They* #522 CBWIII, *Open my Eyes* [Jesse Manibusan])