



# St. Mary's Mercy Values

“Way of Being Community”



# **St Mary's**

Catholic Primary School

## **WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY**

The St Mary's Way of Being Community is underpinned  
by The Golden Rule:

*"Treat others the way you want to be treated!"*

and

**The Mercy Values of: Justice, Service, Respect, Courage,  
Hospitality, Compassion and Community.**

**As Staff, Students and Parents of the St Mary's community,  
our words and actions will ...**

- Create justice through equitable opportunities considering the needs of all individuals
- Provide a place to belong where we welcome, encourage and support each other
- Embrace the value of respect through tolerance, acknowledgement and a sense of belonging
- Offer hospitality to ALL in our community
- Demonstrate compassion by empathising with others and recognising our diverse nature
- Show courage when we are truthful, acting responsibly and accepting of challenges
- Exhibit trust when we are loyal, sincere and respectful in our relationships
- Unite and engage community members in collaboration, fostering positivity
- Create and reflect a positive welcoming atmosphere
- Display openness with a curiosity for discovery, enthusiasm for change and a willingness to take risks
- Provide constructive, timely and non-judgemental feedback, which promotes multiple opportunities for development and improvement
- Recognise and authentically celebrate the big and small achievements of others as well as the joy of belonging to an inclusive community

# **HOW TO IMPLEMENT MERCY VALUES AT ST. MARY'S**

## **TEACHING MERCY VALUES**

- What is the value?
- Why practice it?
- How do you practice it?
- Signs of success
- Affirmation

## **IN YOUR CLASSROOM**

- Have the Mercy Value displayed somewhere in the classroom – eg. on the whiteboard
- Focus your prayer time around it
- Read bible passages that have relevance to the value
- Refer to it often
- Make connection to the overall theme for the year
- Acknowledge students in your classroom / playground when you see them displaying the value
- Have students affirm their peers when they see them demonstrating the value

## **AWARD RECIPIENTS**

- Select two students who have demonstrated the Mercy Value to receive an award in Week 5 / Week 10 of the Terms 1, 2 and 3
- Select two students who have demonstrated the Mercy Value to receive an award in Week 6 of the Terms 4
- Email will be sent as a reminder – you will need to email a photo and the name of each student

# RESPECT

## TIMEFRAME

- Term 1 – Week 1 to 5
- Award given – Week 5

## LINK TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- Beginning the school year – routines and expectations
- Opening mass

## LINK TO WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY

Embrace the value of respect through tolerance, acknowledgement and a sense of belonging

### Week 1 - BIBLE VERSE

John 13: 34 - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

### Week 1 - WHAT IS RESPECT?

Respect is an attitude of caring about people and treating them with dignity. Respect is valuing ourselves and others. We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. When we are respectful we treat others as we want to be treated.

### Week 2 - WHY PRACTICE IT?

Without respect for rules, we would have confusion. People would treat each other rudely and violate each other's privacy and other rights. Respect helps people to feel valued. Elders deserve respect because they have lived longer and learned many of life's lessons. Self-respect is making sure no hurts you. When you respect yourself, others respect you too.

### Week 2 - HOW DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

Think about how you would like others to treat you and treat them with the same dignity. How would you like others to speak to you, treat your belongings, and your right to privacy? If you want to use someone else's things, ask, and then take good care of them. Express even your strongest feelings in a peaceful way. Treat yourself as you feel others deserve to be treated. You deserve it too!

### Week 3 - WHAT WOULD RESPECT LOOK LIKE IF...

- You want to use your friend's bike but she is not around to ask?
- Your grandparents come over and start giving you advice?
- You find yourself talking back to a teacher?
- Your brother/sister is in the bathroom and you need to ask him/her a question?
- There is a rule at school you don't agree with?
- A person starts being unkind to you and physically hurts you?

### Week 4 - SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- Treat others as you want to be treated
- Speak courteously to everyone
- Take special care of other people's belongings
- Are receptive to the wisdom of elders
- Honour the rules of your family, school and nation
- Have respect for yourself

## **PRAYERS**

Dear God,

Please help us to treat other people how we would like to be treated ourselves.

Help us to be respectful to our teachers and friends by valuing who they are as a gift from God.

We must respect our lovely planet by protecting animals and not cutting down trees.

We are all different, so help us to respect other people's beliefs.

Amen.

Dear God,

Let us live together, in peace and harmony, safe and secure, learning each day together.

Make us help one another, appreciating what we have.

Respect other people, sharing our dreams, differences, cultures and faiths.

Endeavour to improve our world, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord,

Help us to become the people You want us to be.

In our school may there be prayer, learning and humour, hard work, faith and friendship.

May we respect everyone we meet, use our gifts and encourage each other.

Let your peace be with us and our families always.

We ask all these things through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Lord,

Thank you for your love each day, we feel it in our work and play.

Lead us with your guiding light, to help each other do what's right.

Amen.

# JUSTICE

## TIMEFRAME

- Term 1 – Week 6 to 10
- Award given – Week 10

## LINK TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter Raffle - Raising money for Caritas
- Holy Week/Easter

## LINK TO WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY

Create justice through equitable opportunities considering the needs of all individuals

### Week 6 - BIBLE VERSE

Micha 6:8 – “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

### Week 6 - WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Practicing Justice is about being fair in everything you do. It is seeing with your own eyes and not judging something or someone by what other people tell you. Being just is standing up for your rights and the rights of other people. It is taking responsibility if you make a mistake and making amends. Justice means that every person's rights are protected.

### Week 7 - WHY PRACTICE IT?

Without justice people get away with hurting or taking advantage of others, and keep on doing it. Without justice, the world can be a cruel and dangerous place. People are judged by their gender, race or religion. When justice is practiced, everyone has a fair chance to be seen for who they are. If someone is accused of something, they get a chance to tell their side. With justice, everyone gets a fair share.

### Week 7 - HOW DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

If someone is hurting you, it is just to stop them. It is never just for strong people to hurt weaker people. If you hurt someone else, fix the problem by making amends. Investigate the truth for yourself instead of listening to others. Instead of prejudging, see people as individuals. Don't accept it when someone acts like a bully, cheats or lies being a champion for justice takes courage. Sometimes when you stand for justice, you stand alone.

### Week 8 - WHAT WOULD JUSTICE LOOK LIKE IF...

- You are with a group and they start to gossip?
- Everyone is teasing a child who looks different?
- Someone makes a remark to you about people of another race?
- An older child keeps getting rough with you?
- Something is missing from your room and you think your brother/sister took it?
- You are teasing someone and cause their lunch to fall to the floor?

### Week 9 - SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- Think for yourself
- Avoid gossip
- Refuse to prejudge – see people as individuals
- Own up to your mistakes and accept the consequences
- Share fairly with others
- Stand up for people's rights, including your own

## **PRAYERS**

Make me a person of justice, my God

To seek the good, to worship You alone,

And show mercy and fairness to my neighbour.

I make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it;

A world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;

A world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;

A world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;

A world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

God of Justice,

Help us to always see those around us with loving and compassionate eyes.

If they need us, help us to reach out to them.

May we always work towards breaking down the barriers that make people feel alone.

In showing kindness and care to each other we will make a difference; we will be demonstrating our love for you.

We make this prayer in your name, Jesus.

Amen.

God,

Help us to show justice as You have done, and act justly in all we do and say.

Amen

# COMPASSION

## TIMEFRAME

- Term 2 – Week 1 to 5
- Award given – Week 5

## LINK TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- ANZAC Day
- Mother's Day Mass

## LINK TO WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY

Demonstrate compassion by empathising with others and recognising our diverse nature

### Week 1 - BIBLE VERSE

Ephesians 4:32 – “be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

### Week 1 - WHAT IS COMPASSION?

Compassion is having kind feelings toward someone who is hurt or troubled. It is caring deeply and wanting to help, even if you don't know them. It is being kind and forgiving to someone who has hurt you.

### Week 2 - WHY PRACTICE IT?

When people feel hurt or in trouble, they often feel alone. Feeling alone can make things even worse. Without compassion the world is a hard and lonely place. Being compassionate helps us to feel less alone. Compassion helps us to be understanding of others and ourselves.

### Week 2 - HOW DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

Compassion begins by noticing when someone seems sad or troubled. Put yourself in their place and ask how you would feel if it were happening to you. Think about how you can help. Take time to listen, and then say kind things like “what are you sad about?” and “how can I help you?” Be forgiving when others make mistakes. Be a friend when someone needs a friend.

### Week 3 - WHAT WOULD COMPASSION LOOK LIKE IF...

- Your dog is caught up in his leash?
- A friend is confused about what the teacher said?
- Your mother is sick in hospital?
- A new student is lonely and feels left out?
- Your father seems really tired after work?
- Your brother's/sister's best friend just moved away?

### Week 4 - SIGNS OF SUCCESS



- Notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend
- Imagine how they must be feeling
- Take time to show that you care
- Ask how they are and listen patiently
- Forgive others when they make mistakes
- Do some service to help a person or an animal in need

## **PRAYERS**

Lord, help us to remember that others don't always see the way we do, hear what we hear, feel what we feel, or understand things the way we've come to understand them.

You give each of us gifts that are uniquely ours but so often we fail to value the gift in another, judging other gifts as wrong or somehow less important than our own.

Give us the compassion you want us to have, Lord, and teach us to embrace each other with compassionate arms, no matter what our age, colour, creed, history, or belief.

Help us to remember that you are life itself, and that you are using every one of our unique gifts to bring us together with you once again.

Amen.

As we go about our day O God,

As we strive to walk with Jesus in compassion,

Let us remember that we are the face of Christ, who is with us always.

May your grace, mercy and peace, bless us, keep us and transform us all this day Now and forever.

Amen.

God,

Bless my eyes to see goodness,

Bless my words to speak kindness,

Bless my heart to feel compassion,

Bless my soul to radiate love,

Amen.

Dear God,

Thank you for the guidance and love you provide everyday

May I always look to you for direction when I reach a crossroad.

When I encounter those with needs, may I have your heart of compassion for them.

We ask through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# SERVICE

## TIMEFRAME

- Term 2 – Week 6 to 10
- Award given – Week 10

## LINK TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- World Environment Day
- NAIDOC Week

## LINK TO WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY

- Provide a place to belong where we welcome, encourage and support each other
- Exhibit trust when you are loyal, sincere and respectful in our relationships

## Week 6 - BIBLE VERSE

1 Peter 4:10 – “Like good stewards of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

## Week 6 - WHAT IS SERVICE?

- Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in their lives. It is looking for ways to be helpful instead of waiting to be asked. The needs of others are as important to you as your own. When you work with a spirit of service, you give any job your best effort. You make a real contribution. People who want to be of service can change the world.

## Week 7 - WHY PRACTICE IT?

- Without service, no one would be there to help when someone needed help unless they were going to be paid or had some selfish motive. With an attitude of service, we do our work with heart. People feel our compassion. When we are being of service, we accomplish everything that has to be done without anyone having to ask. We give our best

## Week 7 - HOW DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

- When you want to be of service, watch to see what help people need. Then do something to help. Look for little ways to make life easier or happier for them. When you work, do it in a spirit of service, giving it your very best. You can serve the earth by not wasting things, reusing and recycling. There are lots of wonderful things you can do to make a difference in the world.

## Week 8 - WHAT WOULD SERVICE LOOK LIKE IF...

- It is raining and your mother is coming up the road without an umbrella?
- You have a job to do for your family?
- You wonder how you can serve the world when you grow up?
- You notice your family throws away a lot of garbage?
- A new student in your school looks a little lost?
- Your teacher is struggling to carry an armful of materials?

## Week 9 - SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- Want to make a difference in the world
- Look for opportunities to be of service to others
- Think of thoughtful things to do to help your family and friends
- Work with enthusiasm
- Don't wait to be asked when something needs doing
- Do your part to care for the earth: recycle, reduce, reuse

## **PRAYERS**

God of mercy,

Unite your Church in the Holy Spirit that we may serve you with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your love and wisdom,

For it is through this, that you invite us to accomplish, your acts of love, service and kindness here on earth.

Thank you for the privilege of 'helping' you.

Amen.

"The fruit of silence is prayer,

The fruit of prayer is faith,

The fruit of faith is love,

The fruit of love is service,

The fruit of service is peace." - Mother Teresa

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for teaching me,

Challenging me,

For inviting me to deepen my faith,

Even as I reach out in love and service to others.

Amen.

# A Prayer for Service

*Always-present God,*

*help me to be present to all who need me.*

*Help me be present to those I know too well to actually see*  
*and to those who are unseen strangers to me.*

*Give me the ability to model your attentive, loving gaze*  
*when I view my world, my family and my friends,*  
*who are seen and loved by you first.*

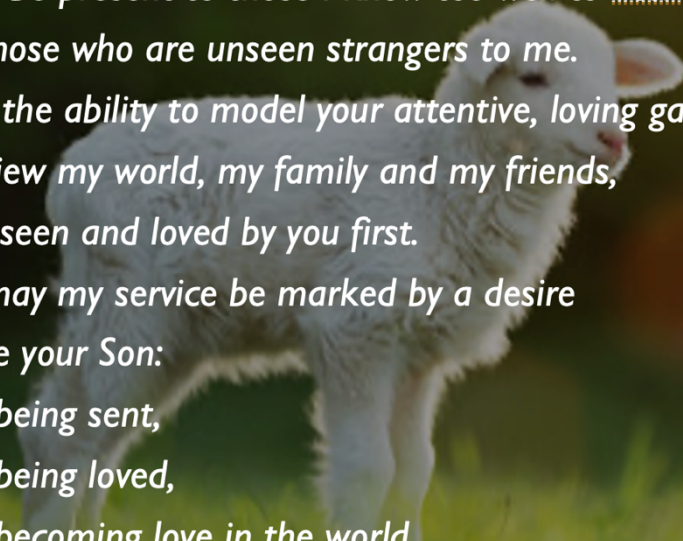
*Finally, may my service be marked by a desire*  
*to be like your Son:*

*open to being sent,*

*open to being loved,*

*open to becoming love in the world.*

*Amen*



# HOSPITALITY

## TIMEFRAME

- Term 3 – Week 1 to 5
- Award given – Week 5

## LINK TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- Catholic Education Week
- Grandparent's Day

## LINK TO WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY

Offer hospitality to all in our community

### Week 1 - BIBLE VERSE

Hebrews 13:2 – “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

### Week 1 - WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?

Hospitality is much more than a simple welcome or an offer of food or drink. Hospitality is an attitude of heart that opens us to others and receives them on their own terms. Hospitality means openness to what guests and strangers bring to us. It is one of the best ways to show love and friendship.

### Week 2 - WHY PRACTICE IT?

Without hospitality, people act uncaring, refusing to welcome others, share their belongings, their time, and their friendship. People who need help feel helpless because no one will give them what they need. When we show hospitality freely to those around us, our spirit grows strong. When one person is hospitable, other people want to be hospitable too.

### Week 2 - HOW DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

When you are hospitable, you think about what people need to ensure they feel welcomed. It is about being kind to people you don't know. You can be hospitable by walking past someone, looking into people's faces, and smiling. They will probably smile back. Show family, friends and guests, that you are glad to see them, by asking how their day is going or if they need any assistance.

### Week 3 - WHAT WOULD HOSPITALITY LOOK LIKE IF...

- Friends came to your house and they were thirsty?
- Your parents invite a family to dinner whom you have never met?
- You are on a bus and an elderly person got on and couldn't find a seat?
- You see someone who is new at school looking lonely.?
- Your friends in class needed to borrow a pair of scissors?
- A student at school doesn't know who to sit with at lunchtime?

### Week 4 - SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- Let others go first with activities
- Be attentive to needs of guests when they come to your house / school
- Share your favourite things with friends and family
- Making sure we are welcoming others
- Smile and greet someone you don't know
- Notice when someone needs help

## PRAYERS

Lord, give us the eyes of Jesus to see our neighbours and the strangers we meet.

Teach us what it means to love the stranger as we love ourselves.

Forgive us for our selfishness, for our silence, for not caring enough for the strangers who come to our communities.

Teach us to love and care for the stranger the way you do.

Amen.

Loving God,

Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people;

Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;

Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;

Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers;

Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;

Give me the care that strengthens the sick;

Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free.

In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of your divine presence.

Amen.

Welcoming God,

I open my heart to be the hospitality of Christ, to all those who come to my door.

I open my heart to embrace the stranger, the friend, the rich, the poor

I open my life to offer a generous heart towards all.

Amen.

“Hospitality is simply an opportunity to show God’s work through love and care for others.” - Unknown

# A Prayer for Hospitality

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Open-armed God,  
you host us at your table and call us to  
welcome others in turn.

Open our hands, our eyes and our  
hearts to those you place before us on  
our journey.

Open our hands, our eyes and our  
hearts to the strangers in our midst.

Amen.



# COURAGE

## TIMEFRAME

- Term 3 – Week 6 to 10
- Award given – Week 10

## LINK TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- St. Mary's Feast Day – 8<sup>th</sup> September
- Father's Day Mass

## LINK TO WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY

Show courage when we are truthful, acting responsibly and accepting of challenges

### Week 6 - BIBLE VERSE

Deuteronomy 31:6 – “Be strong and courageous; have no fear, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you.”

### Week 6 - WHAT IS COURAGE?

Courage is personal bravery in the face of fear. It is doing what needs to be done even when it is really hard or scary. Courage is going ahead even when you feel like giving up. Courage is needed in trying new things. It is admitting mistakes and then doing the right thing.

### Week 7 - WHY PRACTICE IT?

Without courage, people would only do what is easy. No one would try new things. Everyone would do what everyone else is doing, to avoid standing out – even if they knew it was wrong. Fear would be in charge. With courage, you can face any situation. Courage helps you to do great things.

### Week 7 - HOW DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

Courage helps you to do the right things. When you feel afraid, name the fear and then let it go. Then do what you really want to do. Admit mistakes and learn from them. Keep trying. Stand up from what you know is right even if all your friends are doing something wrong. Ask for help when you need it. Let courage fill your heart.

### Week 8 - WHAT WOULD COURAGE LOOK LIKE IF...

- You are asked to speak at a school assembly?
- All your friends want to try something, like stealing, and you feel it is wrong?
- You see another child being teased or hurt by other children?
- You do something you are sorry for, like breaking one of your mother's plates and no one knows who did it?
- You feel scared of the dark when you're trying to go to sleep? (what help do you need?)
- You want to learn a new sport, like swimming, but is scary.

### Week 9 - SIGNS OF SUCCESS



- Do what is right for you even when it is hard or scary
- Find strength in your heart even when you are afraid
- Are willing to try new things
- Admit mistakes and learn from them
- Make amends when you do something wrong
- Ask for help

## **PRAYERS**

O God,

I pray for courage, for I understand there is work to be done, burdens to be carried, feelings to be shared and joys to be celebrated.

Grant me the courage to be silent that I may hear your voice; to persevere, that I may share your victory; and to remember, so that I not forget the way you have led me.

And when this day is done, O Lord, may I have the courage to see your guiding hand in the friendships that have been made, in the hurts that have been healed, and in the strength that has been given.

Amen

Heavenly Father,

Give us the wisdom to know what's right,

The courage to do what's right,

No matter what other people think.

Amen.

Dear God,

I know that you will help me to be strong and courageous, even when I'm scared.

Amen.

God of wisdom and strength,

Help me to have a courageous heart,

A heart that does the right thing,

Even when its' afraid.

Amen.

# A Prayer for Courage

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God of wisdom and strength,  
Help me to have a courageous heart,  
A heart that does the right thing,  
Even when it's afraid.  
Amen.



## A Prayer for Courage

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Loving God,  
Give us the courage to live a life of love  
Give us the courage to speak up for what is right  
Give us the courage to be your mercy to others.  
Amen



# COMMUNITY

## TIMEFRAME

- Term 4 – Week 1 to 6
- Award given – Week 6

## LINK TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- Month of Rosary – October
- World Teacher's Day
- All Saints and All Souls Day
- St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
- Graduation Mass
- Closing Mass

## LINK TO WAY OF BEING COMMUNITY

Recognise and authentically celebrate the big and small achievements of others as well as the joy of belonging to an inclusive community.

### Week 1 - BIBLE VERSE

John 15:5 – “I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me.”

### Week 1 - WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

Community is where people work and live together peacefully. In a community, you feel connected to everyone and everything. Working together in a community, brings harmony. Like the music made by the different instruments in an orchestra. Community comes when we value each person. The joy of one is the joy of all. The hurt of one is the hurt of all. The honour of one is the honour of all.

### Week 2 - WHY PRACTICE IT?

Without a sense of community, differences scare people and drive them apart. Without community, each person stands alone. When we come together as a community, we cooperate. We work together to accomplish more than any of us could do by ourselves. We feel a sense of unity in a community, and we do our part to care for all living things and the earth.

### Week 3 - HOW DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

When you practice being part of a community, you look at your prejudices and are willing to let them go. Being part of a community doesn't mean we all have to be the same. Just as every leaf on a tree has a unique design, each person on this earth is someone special. When you practice being part of a community, you see the specialness in each person, not as a reason to fight or be scared, but as a gift. Working together in a community, gets things done efficiently. Communities work together to solve conflict peacefully by listening and finding solutions.

### Week 4 - WHAT WOULD COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE IF...

- The teacher gives you an assignment to do with a group?
- You see a school family in need of help?
- You overhear someone teasing a child of a different race and calling them names?
- You notice that all your friends aren't looking after the environment around them?

## **Week 5 - SIGNS OF SUCCESS**

- Treat all people as members of one human family
- See the gifts in differences
- Refuse to join in when others express prejudice
- Solve conflict through listening and finding solutions
- Care for the earth and all living things
- Act like a peacemaker where you go

## **PRAYERS**

God our Maker,

We praise you for the gift of community.

Thank you for the communities in which we go to school and live.

Thank you for the community that is your Body, the Church.

Fill us with Your Spirit today so that,

As one, we reflect your light and love to each other and to the world.

In Christ we pray,

Amen.

Dear God,

Bless our school,

Bless our teachers,

Bless our students,

Bless our families.

Please help us to be kind and help us to always try our best.

Let us remember, as many hands make a house,

So many hearts make a school community.

Amen.

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much” – Helen Keller

## *Prayer for Community*

God our Maker,  
We praise you for the gift of community.

Thank you for the communities in which  
we work and live. Thank you for the  
community that is your Body, the Church.

Fill us with Your Spirit today so that, as  
one, we reflect your light and love to each  
other and to the world.

In Christ we pray,  
Amen.

