

**Virtue of Love  
Liturgy of the Word**



*"Friends always show their love" Proverbs 17:17*

**Preparation:** Create a prayerful atmosphere. Prepare a table at the front of your space. Tablecloth should be green for Ordinary Time. Include a cross, fresh flowers or green plant, pillar candle, Bible or Book of the Gospels, hearts, a friendship banner etc.

**Opening Prayer:**

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Loving Jesus,

We thank you for the gift of friendship.

Our friends play with us, encourage us, and share with us

Rejoice with us when we succeed,

Stay with us when we are sad

And bless us always with their love.

May we be ever thankful for our friends.\*

Amen

**Holy Scripture: Mark 12:28-31**

**The First Commandment**

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, *'the first is,* "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Friendship Blessing Prayer:**

**All: We are blessed by our friends.**

We are sure of their love.

**All: We are blessed by our friends.**

In them, we can trust.

**All: We are blessed by our friends.**

We can give and give and give.

**All: We are blessed by our friends.**

With them, we laugh, cry and play.

**All: We are blessed by our friends.**

We pray with them to our Lord.\*

**Ritual Action:** Students can place baskets of friendship notes/hearts in front of the prayer table.

**Our Father:** Invite the school community to pray together the words that Jesus taught us

**Sign of Peace:** As witnesses of our friendship and love turn to one another and offer the sign of peace to those around you.

**Closing Prayer:**

God of friendship and love, help us to always treat others  
With love and respect, for we know that Jesus calls us to love others as we love ourselves.  
May he walk with us every day and guide us in our relationships.  
May we always appreciate the wonderful gift of our friends.  
We ask this through your Son, Jesus.\*  
Amen.

\*Adapted from Words for the Journey for Kids  
Lisa Freemantle & Les Miller