

*Virtues
in Practice*

Faith ~ Hope ~ Charity

Virtues in Practice
Monthly Newsletter

December 2018



“If a bag of sugar says “pure sugar” we know we will find nothing but sugar inside. When we speak of pure water, we expect the water to be free from chemicals, dirt, and disease. In the same way, God calls us to have pure hearts, hearts that are totally for God and for love; hearts that are free from sin and selfishness.

To have pure hearts, we must set our hearts totally on God and not let them become contaminated by the impurity of sin. Sometimes this means being counter-cultural in our choices of movies, music, and dress, because we do not want to allow anything sinful to enter our minds and hearts [...]. Someone who is confident in God’s love does not need to do what is wrong in order to seek the approval of others. **Be confident! Never lower your standards, but surround yourself with friends who seek purity, and glorify God in all you say and do.** (*Virtues in Practice*, 2013)

December’s Virtue - *Purity*

Purity and Sacred Scripture

Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

Pre-K-2nd Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God’s living Word!

What is *Purity*? Keeping your soul free of sin.

Saint: *Saint Dominic Savio (Feast Day: March 9)*

Question to ponder: What is *purity*? Who is St. Dominic Savio?





3rd Grade - 5th Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God's living Word!

What is *Purity*? Keeping your soul free of sin.

Saint: *Saint Agnes (Feast Day: January 21)*

Questions to ponder: Who is Saint Agnes? What should you do to grow further in *purity* this school year?

6th Grade-8th Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*/Come Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to God's living Word!

What is *Purity*? Keeping your soul free of sin.

Saint: *Saint Maria Goretti (Feast Day: July 6)*

Questions to ponder: What are some of the virtues in St. Maria Goretti's life that supported growth in *purity*? Why is it hard to be pure in today's culture? How can we protect purity?



Home Project Suggestions

For details on these and other suggestions, see the Virtues in Practice Parent Guide for the Year of Charity and the month of December. ([ASCS: Virtues in Practice](#))

All: Hang up a copy of the *Act of Charity* on the refrigerator. Pray the *Act of Charity* together as a family. (See below for a large-print copy.)

Pre K-2nd Grade: Practice ways to end a fight before it starts; Discuss telling v. tattling: Tattling is when you are trying to get someone in trouble, but *telling* is when you know someone is in trouble (doing something that is bad for them) and you are trying to get them out of sin.

3rd-5th Grade: Discuss the effects of music on our emotions. Listen to songs that make you happy, and sad songs that ease your sadness, sad songs that make you more depressed, and excerpts of songs that make you feel angry or cruel. Can the kind of music we listen to affect our relationship with God? What kinds of music are good for us?

6th-8th Grade: Discuss how men and women are portrayed on commercials, in magazines, in music, in video games. Is it beautiful, or base? Is it realistic? How can you avoid what isn't good for your soul? How can you change the current culture?; Work with a friend to make a list of 5-10 ways you can protect your purity of heart and body during your teenage years. Don't forget to include some spiritual helps such as prayer and devotion to Mary. Ask Our Lord or Our Lady to show you which practices you should adopt.

Purity is keeping your soul free of sin.

Virtuous Classroom Happenings!

In the junior high during the month of November, students were given *courtesy* tickets for various virtuous acts they performed for classmates, teachers, and the greater All Saints Catholic School community. This was a tactile way of reinforcing courtesy in our daily lives and the students clearly enjoyed it tremendously! Congratulations to the *courtesy ticket* drawing winners: Emma Brewis, Sam Bauer, Mackenzie Zapinski, Isabelle Barone, Emilee Theofanopoulos.

Everyone: Continue spreading courtesy to all, especially during this Advent Season!

January's *Virtue in Practice*: Fortitude



2018-2019 Virtues Committee: Carie Bellamy, Katrina Finkelstein, Mary Ann Jenkins, Michelle MacLellan, Carol Pisarski, Jessica Railling, Amy Roose, Andrew Willing

For more information or for suggestions on monthly classroom activities/home projects please see: [Virtues in Practice](#) program website or contact a member of the 2018-2019 Virtues Committee. Also, for .pdf versions of ALL *Virtues in Practice* materials please see the [Catholic Identity](#) tab at [All Saints'](#) website.

What is a virtue?

A good habit is called a virtue. A bad habit is called a vice. Habits grow by practice. God always gives us the grace to choose and do what is good. If we think about what is right and open our hearts to God, we will make good choices and grow in virtue. Virtues make us free, happy, and holy. (from the Grades 1-2 student book)

Please continue praying the *Act of Charity* with your families. We are all working together to show children that God is first and foremost in our lives. The graces from this prayer are needed to open hearts, to guide leaders, and to beg the healing that only Our Lord can provide. Have a wonderful month!

Act of Charity

*O my God, I love you above all things,
with my whole heart and soul,
because You are all good
and worthy of all love.
I love my neighbor as myself
for the love of You.
I forgive all who have injured me,
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.*

Amen.