

*Virtues  
in Practice*

*Faith ~ Hope ~ Charity*

*Virtues in Practice*  
Monthly Newsletter

February 2019



## February's Virtue - *Prudence*

“It is usually easy to know the difference between right and wrong...but what happens when you need to choose between two things that are right? What if you have to decide whether to donate money to a homeless shelter or to a soup kitchen? What if your family has a trip planned, but a friend really needs you? The virtue of **prudence helps us discern God’s will in specific circumstances and to make the best decision.**

“Prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues because it is a key to other virtues. Something might sound like a good choice, but it is only virtuous if it is prudent, that is, if it is the most reasonable choice, given the circumstances. Prudence guides our conscience. Although there are many situations in which we need this virtue, some decisions that call for prudence include the following:

1. Choosing between two goods;
2. Knowing the right time and way to talk to someone about a problem;
3. Creating new policies to address new situations and needs. (*Virtues in Practice, 2013*)”

Explore the sections below to support you and your family’s virtuous growth in *prudence* throughout February.

*Prudence and Sacred Scripture*

***Whoever pursues justice and kindness will find life and honor [...] Those who guard mouth and tongue guard themselves from trouble***

**Proverbs 21: 21, 23**

## Pre-K-2nd Grade



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

What is *Prudence*? *Thinking about what is best to do*

Saint: *Saint Junipero Serra (Feast Day: July 1)*

Questions to ponder:

Why was it a good idea to found the missions? How did St. Junipero Serra help others?

*Saint Junipero Serra, you loved the Native Americans and were wise about how to help them. Help us to know what is best in each situation. Amen. Saint Junipero Serra, pray for us.*

## 3rd Grade - 5th Grade

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

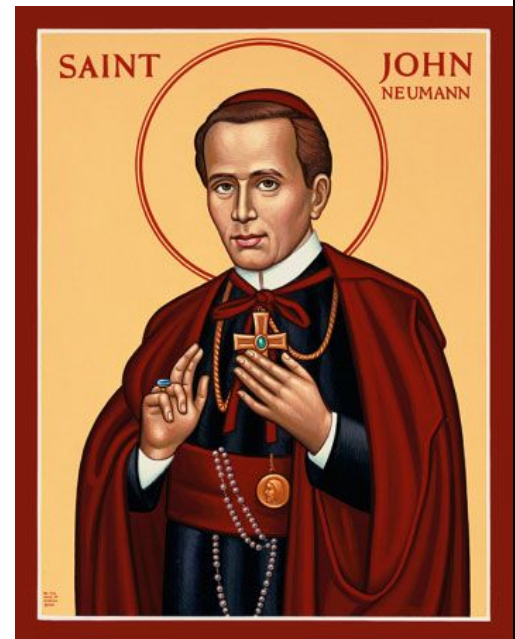
What is *Prudence*? *Making good decisions in specific circumstances*

Saint: *Saint John Neumann (Feast Day: January 5)*

Question to ponder: How did St. John Neumann demonstrate prudence?

*Saint John Neumann, you saw the difficulties in supporting the faith of the young and you were prudent enough to create a new system for Catholic education. When I am faced with difficulties, help me to see the best solution. Amen.*

*Saint John Neumann, pray for us.*



## 6th Grade-8th Grade



Prayer: *Act of Charity*

What is *Prudence*? *Making good decisions in specific circumstances*

Saint: *Saint John XXIII (Feast Day: October 11)*

Questions to ponder: What is prudence? Who is Saint John XXIII?

*Saint John XXIII, you saw the needs of the Church and convened the Second Vatican Council. Help us, when we see a problem, to remember to pray to discover the best solution. Give us your lightheartedness and trust in the Lord. Help us to work for the salvation of all peoples, as you did. Amen. Saint John XXIII, pray for us.*

## 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 February. ([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 following page for a large-print copy.)

Pre K-2nd Grade: Practice pausing to THINK before doing things this month. Is this action or word right and good to do? Is it the best thing to do?

3rd-8th Grade: Discuss the P-R-U-D-E-N-T way of addressing a problem with a peer (see below). Practice using it this month and discuss your results with family and friends.

### PRUDENT: *speaking privately to solve a problem*

Plan ahead what to say.

Request a private moment.

Utter a prayer.

Describe the deed.

*(Maintain eye contact.)*

Effect on me

Nothing. Wait for a response.

Terms

*Sample:*

P: Mentally go through all the steps

R: You see the person alone in the hall; ask to talk.

U: As you lead them aside, pray, "Help me, Jesus!"

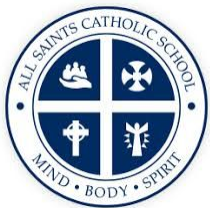
D: "When you poured out my beaker in lab today...

E: ...it really embarrassed me."

N: (Pause until the other person says something.)

T: "Please don't touch my things again or I'll have to report it to the teacher."

**Prudence is making good decisions in specific circumstances.**



2018-2019 Virtues Committee: Carie Bellamy, Terese Gibb, 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.

## *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.*