

# Faith Prayer Service

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, you are so good to us. You have given us many blessings including the gift of free will. We sometimes forget to see that our decisions and our actions are a way to get closer to you. Today and for the months of May and June, we will be working on developing the virtue of prudence. God of unfailing light, we thank you for this day and for our school community. As we gather to hear your guiding word, we pray that through the Holy Spirit, our minds and hearts will be open to the goodness you offer each of us today. May Christ shine in our hearts like the sun, and bring us closer to you. We pray in Christ's name, AMEN

Old Testament Reading—Father John—I would love your suggestions here

Responsorial Psalm: - Your suggestions?  
Response:

Second Reading—Your suggestions?

Gospel Reading—Luke 10:25-37

Optional Activities—any suggestions here?

Universal Prayers:

Response: Lord hear our Prayer

- We pray for the Holy Catholic Church, as it continues to speak out against all that would destroy human dignity and human rights, we pray...
- We pray for all those who task it is to lead communities and nations, may their leadership reflect wisdom and prudence. We pray...
- We pray for those who are poor or oppressed, that, by our prayers and actions, they may experience freedom, justice and peace. We pray...
- We pray for all of us gathered here today, may we be open to the Holy Spirit when faced with moral dilemmas. We Pray...

Closing Prayer: Loving Father, protect us from all harm and give us health in mind and body. Guide us with the Holy Spirit in all of our decisions both large and small. Help us live our lives inspired by the life of your Son, our greatest teacher, Amen.

# Prudence

Special thank you to our Virtues Revitalization Committee members: Todd Bosak, Mike Buhler, Cristina Corbett, Melanie Dixon-Fleury, Brenda Doyle, Jeanette Foy, Brenda Gagne, Sylvie Guevremont, Lori Hurtubise, Lisa Johnston, Laura Kelly, Liliane Lachance, Father John Lemire, Sharon Maisonneuve, Andrew Marks, Karen MacGregor, Gretchen Morgan, Lori-Ann Parkes, Peggy Sirosky, Pauline Sterling and Glenn Sheculski. Some materials adopted from: Sudbury Catholic District School Board, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington CDSB and Toronto Catholic District School Board.



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Northeastern Catholic District School Board

# Growing our Faith through virtues

MAY & JUNE  
VIRTUE: PRUDENCE  
(WISDOM)

## The Importance of Prudence:

Prudence, the ability to make good decisions or choices is one of the four cardinal virtues. A prudent person takes the time to think of the consequences of their actions. They will stop and ask themselves what is the right and most loving thing to do. A prudent person would pray and think things through, then act in truth and love. In this way practicing prudence brings us closer to God and our neighbours.



All of us were created to find happiness by living in God's love. This love must be guided with the wisdom of our faith. Prudence is about guiding one another as sons and daughters of God and encouraging each other to live the Gospel of Jesus with confidence. Prudence is often linked with wisdom. Prudence has three steps:

1. Seeking the proper and most loving thing to do;
2. Judging between actions to find the best choice;
3. Confidently acting on the most righteous choice

There are many classroom applications for this virtue. One could look at Cyber safety, netiquette, the use of media in trying to persuade people away from their Catholic beliefs and values. One could also promote social justice by prudent spending (fair trade practices with developing countries). Prudence is the grace to be able to see everything with the eyes of God. It is simply this; to see the world, situations, circumstances, problems and everything with God's eyes. Pope Francis, Vatican City—April 9th, 2014.

**Looks like:** I think before acting when faced with a moral dilemma. I think of others when making decisions. I reflect on past mistakes before acting. I keep my promises.

**Sounds like:** I say I am sorry and try to make up for past mistakes

**Feels like:** I respect learning and the learning of others and I am open to new ideas

## DEVELOPING CHARACTER THROUGH PRUDENCE

The goal of this virtue:

- To help our students make good and informed decisions
- To base our actions on seeking the most loving thing to do
- To deepen and strengthen our relationship with Christ
- Taking the time to make informed decisions
- Asking yourself "What is the most loving thing to do?"
- Considering others when making decisions. Can this decision potentially hurt someone?
- Looking to the gospel and Church teaching to guide our conscience
- Keeping promises
- Reflecting and learning from past mistakes.

"Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast" Shakespeare

### Curriculum Connections:

SCIENCE—plant seeds of wisdom.

HEALTH—Role play with peer pressure, bullying, discuss the importance of cyber safety

LANGUAGE—Read one of Aesop’s Fables and discuss who was the wisest of the wise and why they feel that

MEDIA LITERACY—Explore advertisements that lead us away from our values and beliefs

# PRAYER CENTRE IDEAS FOR PRUDENCE

- Cut out large letters “W.W.J.D?” and post them at the classroom prayer centre
- Have students brainstorm people who can help them make good choices. Display this list at the prayer centre
- Display the Read Alouds that support the virtue of Prudence—have students reflect on which characters displayed prudence
- Create a Y chart on a bulletin board to demonstrate what prudence looks like, sounds like, feels like

### BUILDING PRUDENCE IN OUR HOMES AND SCHOOLS

As parents and educators we want to make the right choices for our children and students. When we have important decisions to make, we seek help from others. We may sometimes even seek the advice of our parish priest. When we know in our hearts what is the most kind and loving thing to do, we can act with confidence and peace. We want nothing less for our students and children. We must encourage children to stop and think about what would Jesus do.

#### At home:

- Model decisions making process (listening to other people’s advice, praying and practicing kindness)
- Discussing with our children the moral dilemmas they face daily with their friends
- Modeling purchases that honour others instead of exploiting (fair trade)

#### At School

- Develop critical literacy skills in our students
- Read scriptures and learn from biblical passages
- Reflect on past decisions, looking to Jesus as a model

#### A Prudent Person:

- Takes time to reflect when making decisions
- Asks “what is the right and kind thing to do?”
- Looks to Jesus for guidance and asks “What Would Jesus Do?”
- Admits past mistakes and learns from them
- Images of Church and Saints

## A self-examination of prudence:

Students could complete this self-examination using the following:

### Very Well, Well, Needs Work

- I think before acting when faced with a moral dilemma
- I reflect on past mistakes before acting
- I keep my promises
- I respect learning and the learning of others and I am open to new ideas
- I say I am sorry and try to make up for past mistakes
- I think of others when making decisions
- I make wise and prudent purchases that honour the dignity of human beings in developing countries

### Bulletin Board Ideas:

#### What Would Jesus Do?:

-Give students different scenarios where they practice making wise and prudent decisions. Have students role play or do a written response to post.

#### Wise Owls:

-Have students create an owl that is holding a “wise” quotation. Thinking and writing about what it means to be wise will help give students motivation to do their best. Have students make their list of “wise choices” and then attach to owl to post

#### Wise Choices:

-Take photos of students showing prudence in their everyday life. Post with quotations from the Bible that show prudence

#### Words of Wisdom:

Students and staff can create a jar that holds a number of words of wisdom—could be given to graduates or students who are entering the class next semester/year

## Quotes about Prudence

“He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace” Proverbs 11:12



“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him” James 1:5

“In matters of conscience, first thoughts are always best, in matters of prudence, last thoughts are always best” Robert Hall

“For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth comes knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints” Proverbs 2: 6-13

## Resources to support the Virtue of Prudence

Ten Things I can Do to Help my World. Author: Melanie Walsh

The Big Elephant in the Room. Author: Lane Smith

Do Unto Others—A Book About Manners. Author: Laurie Keller

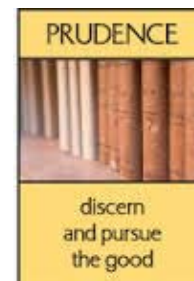
I Repeat Don’t Cheat. Author: Margery Cuyler, Arthur Howard

The Pink Refrigerator. Author: Tim Egan

Don’t Laugh at Me. Author: Steve Seskin

One. Author: Kathryn Otishi

The War. Author: Anais Vaugelade



The Other Side. Author: Jaqueline Woodson

Two of a Kind. Author: Jaqui Robbins

No! Author: David McPhail

Pink. Author: Nan Gregory

Noni Says No. Author: Heather Hartt-Sussman

Those Shoes. Author: Maribeth Boelts

Say Something. Author: Peggy Moss

Martha Walks the Dog. Author: Susan Meddaugh

The Sandwich Swap. Author: Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah

The Scarecrow’s Dance. Author: Jan Yolen

Yoon and the Jade Bracelet. Author: Helen Recorvits

How Full is Your Bucket? Author: Tom Rath

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## Links to Catholic Graduate Expectations

### A Discerning Believer formed in the Catholic Faith Community

Develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic Social Teachings and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and common good

### A self-directed, responsible lifelong learner

Examines and reflects on one’s personal values, abilities and aspirations influencing life’s choices and opportunities

### A Collaborative Contributor

Develops one’s God-given potential and makes meaningful contributions to society

Finds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good

### A Reflective and Creative Thinker

Thinks reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems

### A Responsible Citizen

Accepts accountability for one’s own actions  
Witnesses Catholic social teachings by promoting equality, democracy and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society