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?


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

Faith Prayer Service

Growing our Faith through virtues

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.

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

MAY & JUNE VIRTUE: PRUDENCE (WISDOM)

DEVELOPING CHARACTER THROUGH PRUDENCE

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.

“I judge, 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.


Northeastern Catholic District School Board
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.

**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 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

**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 Vangelade

**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

How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver” Proverbs 16:15

Building Prudence in Schools:

- 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.