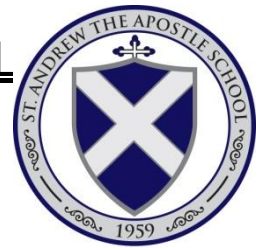


ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Faith · Family · Education



Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen in deed, Alleluia!

Dear St. Andrew the Apostle School Parents and Families,

For the remainder of the school year our ongoing B.E.S.T Plan communication will be focusing on the virtues that encompass our parish values. As a reminder, our Value Statement is:

We believe quality Catholic education calls us to integrate Gospel teachings and values with everyday life; while believing that all secular subjects need to be taught in the light of these values. These values are deeply rooted in the belief that Jesus Christ is the reason for our school and our community lives out our faith expressing the virtues of prudence, fortitude, charity, generosity, temperance, humility, and brotherly love. All, in communion with a strong sense of hospitality and belonging in everything we do.

This month, as a parish family, and at home as a domestic church, I would like to encourage you to continue to partner with the school and focus on these virtues. To summarize, a virtue is the behavior of showing high moral standards. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God. There are three different types of virtues: Cardinal, Theological and Capital. This month's virtues are:

Charity: is a Theological Virtue. It is the virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. St. Paul tells us that love is the greatest of the three theological virtues. Jesus left us two commandments – To love God with everything we have, and our neighbor as ourselves – And if we do these two things, then charity toward everyone, even our enemies, becomes second nature to our wills.

Generosity: is a Capital Virtue. It overcomes the sin of greed. This virtue can involve donating money, or giving up our free time and talents for the less fortunate, or even giving our possessions away. It is a great way to detach ourselves from the things of this world, which is exactly what Jesus told the rich young man who asked him what else he must do to gain eternal life over and above keeping the 10 Commandments. Generosity is NOT philanthropy out of our surplus wealth or government welfare programs. Generosity involves our personal sacrifice, and it is indeed sacrificial to our way of life. Remember the widow in the bible who gave her two pennies in the synagogue, and Jesus said that she gave more than the rest, who, even though they gave a larger amount, gave out of their surplus wealth.

As we continue to celebrate the Easter Season and with Pentecost Sunday (the feast commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the remaining disciples of Christ after the Resurrection) just ahead, this is an excellent opportunity for us to pray for these gifts to be bestowed onto us and our parish family. So I encourage you to continue practicing these virtues this Easter Season; while continuing to pray and offer your support in doing God's will for the good of our parish. I would also ask for your prayers for those entrusted to be part of the search committee for our new principal so that we may carefully select the best candidate to do God's work and lead our school. And as always, please know, that you all remain in my ongoing prayers. I truly believe that together, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and through living out our faith in these virtues, we can make a difference in our parish and our community as a whole.

Thanks for your ongoing prayers and support!

In the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

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