

# ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Faith · Family · Education



Dear St. Andrew the Apostle School Parents and families,

Over the past several months I have had the honor and pleasure to share with you the progress we are making as we move forward with the approved St. Andrew the Apostle Business Executive Summary for Transformation or B.E.S.T Plan. Section one of the plan focuses on our Vision, Values and Mission. Our Value Statement is deeply rooted in the Virtues of our faith and states:

*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.*

As part of the ongoing communication for the remainder of the school year, I plan to share with you every month virtues that are part of our school and parish values. As a parish family, and as a domestic church, I would like to encourage you to partner with the school and focus on these virtues throughout the month. I think it is important for us to start with a brief refresher on virtues.

A virtue is a power of our human souls and gives us the ability to behave and act showing high moral standards. It is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he or she pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God. There are three different types of virtues: Cardinal, Theological and Capital.

The **Cardinal Virtues** are the four moral virtues of **prudence, justice, fortitude** and **temperance**, and they are the foundation for the others. Cardinal comes from the Latin “cardo”, which means “hinge.” The Cardinal virtues can all be acquired through practice, and by observing others. All other virtues hinge on the Cardinal virtues.

The three **Theological Virtues** are **faith, hope** and **charity**, which are straight out of the Bible, and can only be acquired as a free gift from God. God pours these virtues into our very being through sanctifying grace, which we know is obtained through the seven sacraments. They are also called supernatural virtues.

The seven **Capital Virtues** are **chastity, generosity, temperance, brotherly love, meekness, humility** and **diligence**. These virtues help us overcome the seven deadly sins of lust, greed, gluttony, envy, anger, pride, and sloth. Most other sins like murder, for instance, begin with one or two of the seven deadly sins. And once we let one of these sins take over our lives, the other six are only too happy to creep into our lives as well. By praying to obtain and grow stronger in all seven of the capital virtues, we can put a stop to the devil and his plan to destroy our lives.

[www.andrewcc.org](http://www.andrewcc.org)

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February's Virtues:

**Prudence:** is a Cardinal Virtue. It is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; Prudence is "right reason in action," writes St. Thomas Aquinas. He also stated that prudence was the primary cardinal virtue, because it is concerned with the intellect, which guides all our actions. In other words, the way we think determines what we choose and how we act. Prudence is basically the ability to distinguish what is good and bad in any given situation, and to take appropriate action. It is not to be confused with timidity or fear. It is called *auriga virtutum* (the charioteer of the virtues); it guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure. It is prudence that immediately guides the judgment of conscience. The prudent person determines and directs his or her conduct in accordance with this judgment. We especially want to grow stronger in this virtue because with the help of prudence, we can better apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid.

**Fortitude:** is a Cardinal Virtue. It is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. Fortitude, or courage, strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, knowing that Jesus has overcome the world!

As we enter into the Lenten Season this week, this is an excellent opportunity for us to grow deeper in our faith. So I encourage you to practice these virtues as part of your Lenten offering, while continuing to pray and offer your support in doing God's will for the good of our parish. Please know that you all remain in my ongoing prayers and I would continue to ask that you keep me in your prayers and those entrusted to running and enhancing our school. Together, through living out our faith in these virtues, we can make a difference in our community and our parish as a whole.

Thanks for your ongoing prayers and support!

In the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Gregor

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