

Enrichment: Virtue

Cardinal Virtues



FORTITUDE



JUSTICE



TEMPERANCE



PRUDENCE

Fortitude: The cardinal virtue that strengthens us to pursue the good always, even if we are afraid or if it is difficult.

- Fortitude is like a suit of armor. Those who go to battle are often afraid, but they are not controlled by fear. They do not act cowardly or rashly. Instead, they are courageous and can endure great hardship.



Justice: The cardinal virtue that enables our will to give what is due to God and others.

- Justice is like a scale. In the past, scales were used in marketplaces to ensure that both the customer and the merchant were receiving their due. If both sides leveled out, then both people knew they did not receive too much or too little; they received their due. Likewise, the just person gives others what is owed to them.



Temperance: The cardinal virtue that allows us to control and direct our desires for created goods and pleasures according to God's plan.

- The temperate person wants the right things, at the right time, and in the right way. Through his reason, the temperate person trains, controls, and directs his desires just like a horseback rider trains, controls, and directs a horse.



Prudence: The cardinal virtue that enables our mind to know what is truly good in every situation and then how to achieve it. It is right reason in action.

- Prudence is needed in every virtuous action. Just as a compass guides an explorer to his destination, so, too, does the virtue of prudence guide us to what is right and ultimately to God.



Journal Reflection

Which cardinal virtue do you need to grow in the most? What are some things you can do to accept God's grace more in this area and grow in this virtue? Write your answers on the journal page. [Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.](#)

Challenge: This week, carefully practice this virtue. The next time you go to Mass, pray that God will increase this virtue within you.