



JUST A GUY IN THE PEW
THE NARROW ROAD.

APRIL 2022 | PRUDENCE

*In loving memory of Bill Platten.
A leader, a mentor, a friend.*



THE NARROW ROAD

THE EVERYDAY GUIDE FOR THE EVERYDAY GUY



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WELCOME

Brothers in Christ,

I am so excited to deliver this resource to you. As I look back over the years at what God has had us doing at Just a Guy in the Pew, it has become obvious that His goal for our ministry is to help men become virtuous. Jesus didn't ask us to be merely "good" men; no He called us to be great men. In order for this to happen, we need to leave vice and selfishness behind and trade it in for virtue and selflessness. That is what will help us achieve the goal that Christ has for us all. That goal is holiness. In the words of St. Gregory of Nyssa, "The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God." What is God? He is holy and that's what we should hope to become as well.

The *Catechism* defines virtue in this way: "A virtue 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 pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions" (CCC1803). Did you catch that? It says in order to be virtuous we need a habitual and firm disposition. This is where I think most men struggle. Most of us desire to do good. We desire to BE good. The problem is we don't have a system in place to form the necessary habits that shore up our will. Almost every man I have worked with over the years falls prey to this. We have the intention of being virtuous, but the road to hell is paved with good intentions, as they say. As men, we need structure and accountability to help us practice and live out virtue in our lives. Put pieces of wood for building a desk in front of a guy without directions or tools and the wood will soon be pushed to the side with a promise of getting to it later. Put that same wood in front of a guy with directions and a screw gun and he will build it in an hour. You see, the desire is there, we just need good directions.

That is what I hope these books can be for you every month. In them, you will be able to practice a singular virtue over 30 days in the different relationships of your life. This will help you dial your focus in on one virtue each month and will help keep you from feeling overwhelmed. Feeling overwhelmed is what makes most guys put something down. That's why we have made each day as simple as possible for you. We have even included the daily Gospel reading for you to read and reflect on what God is sharing with you personally that day. That in itself will help transform your life.

You also will have the opportunity to list out the ways in which you have practiced that month's particular virtue in the four different relationships in your life. Those are your relationship with God, your relationship with your spouse, your relationship with your children, and your relationship with your neighbor. These are the places

God wants us to grow in virtue. He uses the very people He puts in front of you each day as opportunities to grow in virtue and holiness. If you are not married and do not have children, use those two weeks to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.

The last piece we have included is the Opportunity for Grace Chart. This is not a commitment sheet but is exactly what it is called. It's an opportunity for grace. It is a list made up of simple yet powerful practices you can begin to put into place in your life. These are opportunities you can seek out throughout the month to receive God's grace or pass it along to your family or others. Most guys beat themselves up for what they don't do. This is an opportunity to shine light on the progress you are making each week in your spiritual life. It's a chance to see the positive instead of the negative.

It is my hope and prayer that you will find this simple yet powerful tool helpful. I hope that you will use this book each day to help continue on the path to holiness. If your goal is to be the man that God created you to be, then this will get you going in the right direction. I look forward to walking this journey towards becoming virtuous men beside you.

**In Christ,
John**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRUDENCE

DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									

DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
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25									
26									
27									
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30									

THE VIRTUE OF PRUDENCE

My Brothers,

If a man seeks to live a life of virtue, then he needs a guide that allows him to choose virtue over vice. He needs an ally in choosing the good and moral choice over the bad and immoral one. Most people would refer to that ally as one's conscience or the feeling they get about a choice. However, conscience isn't about a feeling. It is about having the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong. This is where the virtue of prudence comes in. It is the gift from God that informs our conscience and allows us to make morally correct decisions.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us, "Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (CCC1806). It continues in stating, "With the help of this virtue we apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid." (CCC 1806) Let's break this down into layman's terms. We know what is right and what is wrong in most situations. If someone in your life asks you to steal or to lie for them, you know in your heart the right thing to do in that situation. The moral choice would be to refuse to lie and steal based on the knowledge you have that stealing and lying is wrong. Prudence helps us use that knowledge to make the correct choices in everyday situations. Prudence keeps us from reckless or negligent decisions. You can think of it as the compass of our souls.

There is a great need for prudence in today's world. So many people believe they have the right to make any choice they want, and they often do. They feel they should be able to decide whatever they want without consequences. This is why there is a need to truly understand and practice prudence in our lives. The choices we make matter. Without the virtue of prudence, we can find ourselves making choices that hurt others and lead us towards vice. Without the compass prudence provides us, we can begin to make choices that are selfish and self-serving. This is why prudence has been called the "charioteer of virtues". It helps inform and control all the other virtues we possess as men.

St. Thomas Aquinas says, "Prudence is right reason in action." This is what we must have if we are going to continue to become virtuous men. We need to make morally sound choices in the moment. Prudence can be a difficult virtue to master, especially in moments of temptation. That is why we need to give it our full attention this month. If you find yourself struggling with prudence, try going back and looking at mistakes you made in the past. Learning from past mistakes will help you make

more prudent decisions in the future. Also, take your time when presented with a choice. Recklessness and impulsivity are the enemies of prudence. Finally, if you find yourself struggling with prudence, looking at those a little longer in the tooth may really help. Nothing beats someone who has more experience than you. I look forward to working on this crucial virtue this month alongside you. Please pray for me and know that I am praying for you.

VIRTUE PLAN FOR THE MONTH

VIRTUE: PRUDENCE

MOTTO:

"Virtue without prudence isn't virtue at all."

— St. Faustina

ROOT SINS:

Pride, Sloth

WHERE DO I SEE THESE SINS IN MY LIFE?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

PLAN TO FORM PRUDENCE

WEEK 1: Prudence and God

WEEK 2: Prudence and My Wife

WEEK 3: Prudence and My Children

WEEK 4: Prudence and My Neighbor

PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

Make me a person of prudence, my God: Help me to practice good judgment and act responsibly: by learning, by preparing, by listening, and making good and moral choices with peace and joy in my heart.

Amen

WEEK 1 REFLECTION:

PRUDENCE AND GOD

When one takes a good look at the virtue of prudence, he can see it can be broken down into two categories. Those categories are natural prudence and supernatural prudence. In the first reflection, we defined prudence as the learned habit of making right decisions. An example of this would be to stop at a stop sign instead of blowing right through it without looking. This is the natural form of prudence. When we begin to look at prudence and our relationship with God, we have to begin to look at the supernatural side of prudence. This side of prudence impacts our relationship with God.

Supernatural prudence allows us to order everything in our lives in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel so we can remain in the right relationship with Christ and have eternal life. This part of prudence helps us to make decisions that line up with the teaching of our faith in every part of our lives. We often talk on the podcast about being the same man no matter where you are and what the situation is. Supernatural prudence allows us to do this. It is a grace from God that helps us in tough moments when we are tempted to make decisions contrary to our faith. Many times, some of the decisions we make in those situations will seem imprudent from the lens of the world but are supernaturally prudent to us living out the faith. There is no better example of the role supernatural prudence plays in our lives than that of the martyrs of our faith. They lived lives of supernatural prudence by giving away their lives in the service of our Lord. These martyrs didn't let their circumstances determine how they lived their faith. They made the right and difficult choice to follow Jesus no matter the cost.

St. Stephen is a great martyr in which to find supernatural prudence. Acts 6:8 tells us, "And Stephen, full of grace and power, did wonders and signs among the people." It also shares that he was witnessing powerfully for our Lord. Many of the people became angry with Stephen because they "Could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke" (Acts 6:10). In their anger, they instigated others to arrest him and bring him before the council. Now Stephen was more than aware of what happened to Jesus when He was arrested. I'm sure Stephen knew the way he chose to respond to the charges would determine whether he lived or died. In the face of that knowledge, Stephen chose to witness to the Lord. He didn't retract his words or apologize for his actions. He didn't beg for mercy. He chose the Lord and the narrow road that leads to heaven. The grace that Stephen had been filled with was what allowed Him to exercise supernatural prudence. That same grace exists inside of us. We received it at our baptism, and it was sealed in us at our confirmation. We have that same gift from God that will allow us to make the decisions we need to make to become true, unwavering disciples of the Lord. We just have to trust in the Lord and surrender to the gift of supernatural prudence that He has so graciously given us.

WEEK 1: PRUDENCE AND GOD

APRIL 1, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Virtue without prudence is not virtue at all. We should often pray to the Holy Spirit for this grace of prudence. Prudence consists in discretion, rational reflection, and courageous resolution. The final decision is always up to us.”

— St. Faustina

SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

FRIDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

After this Jesus went about in Galilee; he would not go about in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill him. Now the Jews' feast of Tabernacles was at hand. But after his brethren had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? Yet we know where this man comes from; and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord; he who sent me is true, and him you do not know. I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me." So they sought to arrest him; but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY PRUDENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PRUDENCE AND GOD

APRIL 2, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Let us employ the gift of reason for actions of prudence. Let us learn now abstinence from what is wicked, that we may not be forced to learn in the future. Let us employ life as a training school for what is good; and let us be roused to the hatred of sin. Let us bear about a deep love for the Creator; let us cleave to Him with our whole heart; let us not wickedly waste the substance of reason, like the prodigal."

— St. Clement of Alexandria



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 7:40-53

SATURDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." They went each to his own house.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY PRUDENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PRUDENCE AND GOD

APRIL 3, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Prudence is the knowledge of what to seek and what to avoid."

— St. Augustine



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 8:1-11

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple; all the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus looked up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY PRUDENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PRUDENCE AND GOD

APRIL 4, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Guide your ship well. Let prudence take the helm, let humility be the rudder, God your compass, Mary your anchor of hope."

— St. Theophane Venard



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 8:12-20

MONDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The Pharisees then said to him, "You are bearing witness to yourself; your testimony is not true." Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness to myself, my testimony is true, for I know whence I have come and whither I am going, but you do not know whence I come or whither I am going. You judge according to the flesh, I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone that judge, but I and he who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two men is true; I bear witness to myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness to me." They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father; if you knew me, you would know my Father also." These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY PRUDENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PRUDENCE AND GOD

APRIL 5, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"In all your deeds and words, you should look upon this Jesus, as your model. Do so, whether you are walking or keeping silence, or speaking, whether you are alone or with others. He is perfect and thus, you will be, not only irreprehensible, but praiseworthy."

— St. Bonaventure



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 8:21-30

TUESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Again he said to them, "I go away, and you will seek me and die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." Then said the Jews, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" He said to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." They said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Even what I have told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you and much to judge; but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." They did not understand that he spoke to them of the Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority but speak thus as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him." As he spoke thus, many believed in him.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY PRUDENCE TO GOD TODAY?

[illegible]

WEEK 1: PRUDENCE AND GOD

APRIL 6, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Prudence must precede every action which we undertake; for, if prudence be wanting, there is nothing, however good it may seem, which is not turned into evil."

— St. Basil



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 8:31-42

WEDNESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any one. How is it that you say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father." They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; this is not what Abraham did. You do what your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded and came forth from God; I came not of my own accord, but he sent me."

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY PRUDENCE TO GOD TODAY?

[illegible]

WEEK 1: PRUDENCE AND GOD

APRIL 7, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"In everything a prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly."

— Proverbs 13:16



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 8:51-59

THURSDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

"Truly, truly, I say to you, if any one keeps my word, he will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, as did the prophets; and you say, 'If any one keeps my word, he will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you claim to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing; it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is your God. But you have not known him; I know him. If I said, I do not know him, I should be a liar like you; but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see my day; he saw it and was glad." The Jews then said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they took up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN MY PRUDENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 2 REFLECTION:

PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

**If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

I don't know about you guys, but it seems like there is never enough time in the day. From the time the alarm goes off to the time your head hits the pillow, it seems as if we don't have a free moment. Our days are consumed with meetings, deadlines, never-ending emails and tasks that are stacked one on top of another. And that is just the work part of the day. Many of us have children who are in multiple sports and countless other activities that consume our time outside of work. It really can be a merry-go-round of never-ending chaos. If we aren't careful, things can slip through the cracks in all that chaos. Important things, like your relationship with your wife, can begin to suffer.

I can't tell you how many times I hear from guys struggling in this way. They have neglected to nurture their relationship with their wives amongst all the other things on their never-ending to-do list. Suddenly, they and their wives become like two ships passing in the night, slaves to the demands of the world, their children, and their jobs. I should know. I often struggle with this myself. There are some days when I look back, and Angela and I have barely even spoken to each other because we are so busy with our responsibilities with work and the children. There have been a lot of nights when the first time Angela and I have spoken more than a couple of words to each other has been when we are getting ready for bed. It can be easy to hear other people who have similar stories tell you that is just the way things are. However, it doesn't have to be that way. In fact, it isn't supposed to be that way. We have a choice in how we spend our time and what we allow to be important to us. We can convince ourselves that we don't, but that isn't the truth. Everything we do in life comes down to a choice. How our lives end up has a lot to do with how prudent we are in making those choices.

The thing the devil wants to destroy the most is the family. He gets a great start at doing that when we aren't prudent in our relationship with our wives. If we aren't choosing to pour into our relationship with our spouse, then the whole family is going to suffer. This is a common cause for divorce and the splitting up of families. We allow ourselves to become so busy and stressed that we simply grow apart. Different things become important to both of us. If we aren't careful, we can even forget the things about our spouses that caused us to fall in love with them in the first place. The times we do spend together can become full of arguments and insults about who isn't pulling their weight or who isn't making time for the other. We cannot allow our relationships to find their way to this place.

If we feel we are reaching this place in our marriage, then we need to ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I being prudent in giving my wife my attention and my time? When I am with my wife, am I only focusing on her flaws and issues or am I prudent about looking beyond them to her good and making my marriage work? Do I realize that I have my own flaws and issues, and am I being prudent in working to fix them? Am I open-minded to her thoughts, needs, and desires while making sure there is an open line of communication? Am I being prudent in not taking her

for granted in all things? Is it prudent to turn to pornography instead of trying to work through our issues and find our intimacy with my spouse? Is it prudent to go out for that guy's night when I know my wife has been wanting more time with me? These are some of the questions that we need to be asking ourselves, and the virtue of prudence helps us to choose correctly. If we want to have the best marriage we possibly can, then we need to be prudent about deciding to put our wives first.

Brothers, don't let your marriage play second fiddle to everything else. Behind God, your wife is the most important person in your life. Make sure you are choosing to show her that. Schedule a night a week for date night. At the very least, schedule one a month. Look for opportunities to get involved in what she likes to do. Give in and watch a chick flick. It won't kill you. The bottom line is that God wants your marriage to be an amazing source of joy in your life. That's why He put the two of you together. All that is missing is a little prudence in deciding what needs to come first in your life.

WEEK 2: PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

APRIL 8, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Prudence is love discerning aright that which helps from that which hinders us in tending to God."

— St. Augustine

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 10:31-42

FRIDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

The Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?" The Jews answered him, "We stone you for no good work but for blasphemy; because you, being a man, make yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came (and scripture cannot be broken), do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Again they tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John at first baptized, and there he remained. And many came to him; and they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

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WEEK 2: PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

APRIL 9, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Ponder the fact that God has made you a gardener, to root our vice and plant virtue."

— St. Catherine of Sienna



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 11:45-56

SATURDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him; but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council, and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on thus, every one will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." But one of them, Ca'iaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all; you do not understand that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they took counsel how to put him to death. Jesus therefore no longer went about openly among the Jews, but went from there to the country near the wilderness, to a town called E'phraim; and there he stayed with the disciples. Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast?"

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

APRIL 10, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"There are two sorts of prudence, the one human, the other Christian. Human, carnal, or worldly prudence is that which has only worldly prosperity in view, and is indifferent about the means, provided it attains its object. Christian prudence takes Eternal Incarnate Wisdom for its guide in every thought, word, and work. It is regulated in every emergency, not by fatuous, glimmering light of its own, or by worldly judgment, but by the maxims of faith."

— St. Vincent of Paul

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

LK 22:14—23:56

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of man goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" And they began to question one another, which of them it was that would do this.

A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather

let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. "You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." He said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me."

And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing." He said to them, "But now, let him who has a purse take it, and likewise a bag. And let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one. For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was reckoned with transgressors'; for what is written about me has its fulfillment." And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

And he came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?" And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and captains of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a maid, seeing him

as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." And a little later some one else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and asked him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council, and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." And they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." And they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king." And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes, "I find no crime in this man." But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving

death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him."

But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barab'bas"—a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyre'ne, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place,

returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

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WEEK 2: PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

APRIL 11, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather, we must be simple, humble, and pure."

— St. Francis of Assisi

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 12:1-11

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Laz'arus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Laz'arus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Laz'arus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Laz'arus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

APRIL 12, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Think well. Speak well. Do well. These three things, through the mercy of God, will make a man go to Heaven."

— St. Camillus



GOSPEL

JN 13:21-33, 36-38

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

When Jesus had thus spoken, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was lying close to the breast of Jesus; so Simon Peter beckoned to him and said, "Tell us who it is of whom he speaks." So lying thus, close to the breast of Jesus, he said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give this morsel when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the money box, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel, he immediately went out; and it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified; if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now; but you shall follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why cannot I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the cock will not crow, till you have denied me three times."

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

APRIL 13, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"As to be holy is nothing else than to will what God wills, so to be wise is nothing else than to judge of things as God judges of them."

— St. Vincent de Paul

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

MT 26:14-25

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the passover?" He said, "Go into the city to such a one, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover. When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?" He said to him, "You have said so."

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HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PRUDENCE AND MY WIFE

APRIL 14, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Be ye prudent as the serpent; he, on being in danger, exposes his whole body to preserve his head. In the same manner, we must risk everything, should it be necessary, to preserve the love and presence of Our Lord whole and entire within ourselves, for He is our Head, and we are His members. This is the prudence which we are to unite with simplicity."

— St. Francis de Sales



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 13:1-15

HOLY THURSDAY EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded. He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not all of you." For

he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “You are not all clean.” When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 3 REFLECTION:

PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

**If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

There are so many things that come to mind when a man starts to think about the virtue of prudence with his children. The world throws so much at our kids today that we didn't have to deal with when we were young. Our children need a present father who is involved in their life and can help them navigate the difficulties they may face. I guess that's the best place to start. I guess the first question to ask ourselves is are we being prudent about spending time with our children?

So many things seek to rob us of our time with our children. The world is really good at telling us that we work hard and that the time we have left over should be spent on ourselves instead of those around us. So many fathers have bought into this mindset and have become enslaved to their favorite sports team, Netflix, social media, and so many other things that seek our attention. With this mindset, we start to forget about spending time with our kids. We are slowly lulled to sleep, and we forget how little time we actually have to be a positive influence in our children's lives. When our children have a void in their lives that should be filled by their fathers, bad things can happen. They look to other things to occupy their time and to teach them things about life that should come from us. So many parents have given their children iPhones, iPads, and other devices to fill their time with. While these devices are a helpful technology to have, they can also open the door to a lot of things that kids aren't ready to see. I have heard countless tales of kids viewing and becoming addicted to porn on devices that have served as an unsecured babysitter. Tons of kids are free to roam YouTube for hours on end watching the worst junk society has to offer. Most kids today don't know how to talk and communicate with each other without a device. This is why we have to resist the things of the world that seek to take us away from our children. They need us, not some device or some YouTuber telling them who they should be and how they should be living their life.

We also need to be prudent about the type of relationship we have with our children. There are a lot of parents who seek to become their kids' best friend. They don't want to be the bad guy disciplinarian or risk being at odds with their children. God didn't give us the role of best friend to our children. He gave us the role of a father. That means that above all we need to be raising them up in the faith, teaching them respect and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

This also relates to another place where we need to be prudent with our children. If we want our children to grow up to be virtuous disciples of Jesus Christ, then we must exemplify it in our own lives. If we want them to be respectful to people, then we have to be respectful to those around us. If we want them to stay away from developing certain vices, then we need to make the prudent choice to stay away from those vices ourselves. Do as I say and not as I do doesn't work. It never has. Our children are going to follow the example we provide them, good or bad. If you don't want your kids drinking 20 beers a night when they get older, don't do it yourself. If you want your sons to respect women and treat them the right way, then you must as well. If you want your children to grow up to have a wonderfully loving

relationship with Jesus and the faith, then you must make the choice to have that same type of relationship yourself. It can be so easy to just go about life doing what you want to do and expecting your children to magically turn out different. It doesn't work that way. That is why it is so important to be prudent about the time we are giving our children and the example we are providing them. As the saying goes, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. This week, let's start focusing on being prudent with both the time and the example we are giving to our children.

WEEK 3: PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

APRIL 15, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Jesus, Son of God, in whom the fullness of the Divinity dwells, You call all the baptized to 'put out into the deep,' taking the path that leads to holiness. Waken in the hearts of young people the desire to be witnesses in the world of today to the power of your love. Fill them with your Spirit of fortitude and prudence, so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation."

— from St. John Paul II's Prayer for Teenagers



GOSPEL

JN 18:1—19:42

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken, "Of those whom thou gavest me I lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Ca'iaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Ca'iaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. The maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are not you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Annas then sent him bound to Ca'iaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "Are not you also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

Then they led Jesus from the house of Ca'iaphas to the praetorium. It was early. They themselves did not enter the praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die.

Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, "I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barab'bas!" Now Barab'bas was a robber.

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin." Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab'batha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Gol'gotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag'dalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

APRIL 16, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Reflect carefully on this, for it is so important that I can hardly lay too much stress on it. Fix your eyes on the Crucified and nothing else will be of much importance to you.”

— St. Teresa of Avila



GOSPEL

LK 24:1-12

EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

HOLY SATURDAY AT THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT OF EASTER

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Mag'dalene and Jo-an'na and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

APRIL 17, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Endeavor to unite the simplicity of children with the prudence of adults.”

— St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina



GOSPEL

JN 20:1-9

EASTER SUNDAY, THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, THE MASS OF EASTER DAY

Now on the first day of the week Mary Mag'dalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

APRIL 18, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Prudence shows us what is most pleasing to God, and most useful to the salvation of our soul. We must always choose the most perfect."

— St. John Vianney

SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

MT 28:8-15

MONDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

APRIL 19, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Where there is mercy and prudence, there is neither excess nor harshness."

— St. Francis of Assisi

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 20:11-18

TUESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-bo'ni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Mag'dalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

APRIL 20, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Don't judge without having heard both sides. Even persons who think themselves virtuous very easily forget this elementary rule of prudence."

— St. Josemaria Escriva



GOSPEL

LK 24:13-35

WEDNESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emma'us, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cle'opas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they

did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PRUDENCE AND MY CHILDREN

APRIL 21, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends. Speak to Him often of your business, your plans, your troubles, your fears - of everything that concerns you. Converse with Him confidently and frankly; for God is not wont to speak to a soul that does not speak to Him."

— St. Alphonsus Liguori



GOSPEL

LK 24:35-48

THURSDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on

the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 4 REFLECTION:

PRUDENCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

The world, the flesh, and the devil are pulling at men all the time to leave the faith behind and make truth relevant to oneself. The culture claims to want unlimited diversity, but in truth, it just wants more of the same. It wants men to give into their selfishness and pushes them to leave virtue and their faith-driven values behind. Society pressures a man to follow the herd, to get in line, and to fit in no matter the cost. Too many of our brothers have fallen to this and sadly there are more on the way. This is why it is so important for us to become true disciples of Jesus. We need to show our neighbors there is a different path. In order for that to happen, we have to be prudent in how we go about our day-to-day actions.

The pressure to fit in can be overwhelming, especially in the workplace or in our friend groups. So many men, including myself sometimes, sit idly by while we witness things that are unjust or totally inappropriate. We go along with bad jokes or egg on inappropriate behavior of our friends and co-workers. We don't want to rock the boat or be cast out, so we stay silent. We make the safe choice instead of the prudent one. As a result, we allow the things in this world that we are supposed to take a stand against continue. If this is the way we are choosing to live, then we are not part of the solution. We are part of the problem. How can we wonder why so many men are refusing to stand up for what they believe in when we don't ourselves? Our choices and decisions matter, and they certainly affect those around us. We can no longer sit idly by and give our approval to the wrongs of the world with our silence. As followers of Christ, we are called to be courageous and to stand up for what is right. Too many of us are claiming to be followers of Christ, but we are refusing to make the hard prudent choices. If we want the world to change, then we must stand up and help change it. We can't sit around and wait on someone else to change it. If we all do that, then nothing will ever happen. It is time we start being prudent in our choice to stand up and be different.

Think about that. How can people learn to live more Christ-like and become true disciples of our Lord if they don't have anybody to show them how? Part of being a prudent man is making the right decision no matter how hard it is. It is choosing the morally right path no matter what it cost you, even if you are the only one left standing. As the Catechism states, "Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (CCC 1806). This means in every situation with no exceptions.

Brothers, if the people we are supposed to be trying to convert see no difference between us as Christians and the rest of the world, why would they ever want to become disciples of Christ? We must begin to be prudent in everything we do. We must stand up for what is morally right and good no matter the cost. That is what being a light in the world means. That is what our Lord asks of us. That is the best thing we can do for our neighbor. Our prudence can be a great gift to those who don't know Christ. Please pray for me to grow in this great virtue as I continue to pray for you

WEEK 4: PRUDENCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

APRIL 22, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"I hold it to be a proof of great prudence for men to abstain from threats and insulting words toward anyone, for neither diminishes the strength of the enemy. Speak not injurious words, neither in jest nor earnest; scoff at none although they give occasion."

— St. John Chrysostom



GOSPEL

JN 21:1-14

FRIDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tibe'ri-as; and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathan'a-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zeb'edee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and

although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PRUDENCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

APRIL 23, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"If according to times and needs you should be obliged to make fresh rules and change current things, do it with prudence and good advice."

— St. Angela Merici

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

MK 16:9-15

SATURDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Mag'dalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

[illegible]

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Prudence is the mother of Fortitude, nor ought any deed of daring be called fortitude, but rather rashness, if it be not the child of prudence."

— St. Bernard of Clairvaux



GOSPEL

JN 20:19-31

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PRUDENCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

APRIL 25, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.”

— Pope St. John Paul II



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

MK 16:15-20

FEAST OF SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

[illegible]

WEEK 4: PRUDENCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

APRIL 26, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent."

— St. John of the Cross



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 3:7B-15

TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit. "Nicodemus said to him, "How can this be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PRUDENCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

APRIL 27, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“There are some who wish to learn for no other reason than that they may be looked upon as learned, which is ridiculous vanity ... Others desire to learn that they may morally instruct others, that is love. And, lastly, there are some who wish to learn that they may be themselves edified; and that is prudence.”

— St. Bernard of Clairvaux

SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 3:16-21

WEDNESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Prudence means practical common sense, taking the trouble to think out what you are doing and what is likely to come of it."

— C.S. Lewis from *Mere Christianity*



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 3:31-36

THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth belongs to the earth, and of the earth he speaks; he who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony; he who receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for it is not by measure that he gives the Spirit; the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.

[illegible]

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

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THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"In making our decisions, we must use the brains that God has given us. But we must also use our hearts, which He also gave us."

— Fulton Oursler



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 6:1-15

MEMORIAL OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tibe'ri-as. And a multitude followed him, because they saw the signs which he did on those who were diseased. Jesus went up into the hills, and there sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. When the people

saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the hills by himself.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PRUDENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PRUDENCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

APRIL 30, 2022

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Prudence is a sort of accumulated theoretical and practical wisdom, a know-how that is for the most part instinctual, in the bones."

— **Bishop Robert Barron**



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PRUDENCE

GOSPEL

JN 6:16-21

SATURDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Caper'na-um. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea rose because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat. They were frightened, but he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PRUDENCE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

[illegible]

LITANY OF HUMILITY

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart,
Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being extolled,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being honored,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being praised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being preferred
to others,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being consulted,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being approved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being humiliated,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being despised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of suffering rebukes,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being calumniated,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being forgotten,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being ridiculed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being wronged,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being suspected,
Deliver me, Jesus.

That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That, in the opinion of the world, others
may increase and I may decrease,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I set aside,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and
I unnoticed,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be preferred to me
in everything,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may become holier than I,
provided that I may become as holy as
I should,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

THE LITANY OF TRUST

From the belief that I have to earn
Your love,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that I am unlovable,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the false security that I have what
it takes,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that trusting You will leave
me more destitute,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From all suspicion of Your words
and promises,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the rebellion against childlike
dependency on You,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From refusals and reluctances in
accepting Your will,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From anxiety about the future,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From resentment or excessive
preoccupation with the past,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From restless self-seeking
in the present moment,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From disbelief in Your love and presence,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being asked to give
more than I have,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the belief that my life has no
meaning or worth,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of what love demands,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From discouragement,

Deliver me, Jesus.

That You are continually holding me
sustaining me, loving me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your love goes deeper than my sins
and failings, and transforms me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is
an invitation to lean on You,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That you are with me in my suffering,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That my suffering, united to Your own, will
bear fruit in this life and the next,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will not leave me orphan, that You
are present in Your Church,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your plan is better than anything else,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You always hear me and in Your
goodness always respond to me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me the grace to accept
forgiveness and to forgive others,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me all the strength I need for
what is asked,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That my life is a gift,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will teach me to trust You,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You are my Lord and my God,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That I am Your beloved one,

Jesus, I trust in you.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by His Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. **Amen.**



JUST A GUY
IN THE PEW