

*Virtues
in Practice*

Faith ~ Hope ~ Charity

Virtues in Practice
Monthly Newsletter

October 2018



Fall is upon us, and with a new month of the school year comes a new *Virtue in Practice*: **friendship!** How can we show friendship to our families? How can we show friendship in our All Saints Catholic School community? Take some time this month to specially focus on the virtue of **friendship** through our grade-level Saints, home projects, prayer, and questions to ponder.

What is a virtue?

A good habit is called a virtue. A bad habit is called a vice. Habits grow by practice. God always gives us the grace to choose and do what is good. If we think about what is right and open our hearts to God, we will make good choices and grow in virtue. Virtues make us free, happy, and holy. (from the Grades 1-2 student book)

October's Virtue - *Friendship*

Friendship and Sacred Scripture

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; For he who fears God behaves accordingly, and his friend will be like himself. (Sirach 6:14-17)

Pre-K-2nd Grade Grade

Prayer: *Act of Charity*

What is *Friendship*? Helping the people you like to be good

Saint: *Saints Benedict & Scholastica (Feasts: July 11 & February 10)*

Questions to ponder: How do you help your friends to be good?
What makes a person a good friend?



Sts. Benedict and Scholastica
by Sr. Mary Charles McGough, O.S.B.

3rd Grade - 5th Grade



Saints Basil & Gregory, icon written by Rev. Christopher Klitou

Prayer: *Act of Charity*

What is *Friendship*? Sharing a mutual love that seeks the good of the other

Saint: *Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen (Feast: January 2)*

Question to ponder: What does it mean to “seek the good of the other”? What is the difference between fun teasing and mean teasing? Do true friends *share* their friends?

6th Grade- 8th Grade

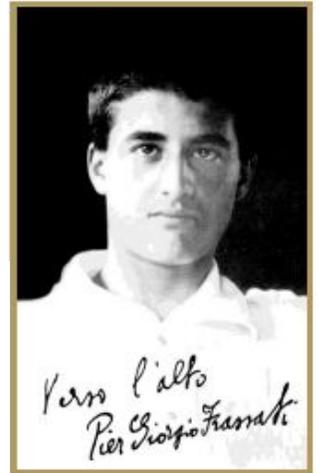
Prayer: *Act of Charity*

What is *Friendship*? Sharing a mutual love that seeks the good of the other

Saint: *Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (Feast: July 4)*

Blessed Pier Giorgio was a great athlete who always put his faith first. With a small group, brainstorm and write out some ways that you could sanctify your school sports teams.

1. Do you ask the pastor for a blessing of the team to start the season?
2. Do games interfere with Sunday Mass? Does the team ever attend Mass together?
3. Do you pray before/after practices and games? Do you have a patron saint?
4. Do you hold one another accountable for Christian behavior on the court and field? How?
5. Is there anything about your teams that tempts people to be unkind? How could you improve/reverse that aspect from the beginning?
6. How can you tell if a team's purpose is simply to win, or to have fun and glorify God?



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Home Project Suggestions

For details on these and other suggestions, see the Virtues in Practice Parent Guide for the Year of Charity and the month of October. ([ASCS: Virtues in Practice](#))

All: Hang up a copy of the *Act of Charity* on the refrigerator. Pray the *Act of Charity* together as a family. (See below for a large-print copy.)

Pre K-2nd Grade: Practice sharing with your friends. Tell someone else how fun it is to play with your friend and invite them to join you./Are any of your friends sometimes mean to you? Practice politely telling them, “I don’t like that” and “please stop”.

3rd-5th Grade: Who are your closest friends? What virtues are strengths for them? This month, make a goal of telling your friends which virtues you admire in them the most. This is a great way to encourage them to grow even more in that virtue./Each night this month, pray for your friends by name.

6th-8th Grade: Would you do something mean to keep your friends? This month, pay attention to whether your friends are habitually kind to each other. How do your friends talk about someone when he or she isn’t around? See if **you** can raise the bar.

Virtuous Classroom Happenings!

During September students were greeted by a beautiful bulletin board (left) at the main school entrance. As our *Virtue in Practice* was **charity**, students were visually called to lift others around them and to love God with their hearts, mind and strength and their neighbors as themselves. What a wonderful beginning to the new academic year!

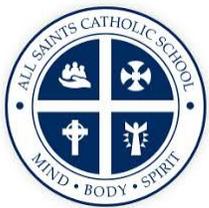


Fleece & Thank You provides comfort and hope to children battling illness by giving donors the unique opportunity to create a fleece blanket and a cherished video message of support and encouragement. That blanket and message is then given to a child who is experiencing a long term hospital stay to help make them just a bit more comfortable during their time of illness.



ASCS junior high students, Kelly Mahoney & Emma Chabala participating in the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program, *Fleece & Thank You*. What a wonderful example of the virtue, *charity*!

November's *Virtue in Practice*: Courtesy



2018-2019 Virtues Committee: Carie Bellamy, Katrina Finkelstein, Mary Ann Jenkins, Michelle MacLellan, Carol Pisarski, Jessica Railling, Amy Roose, Andrew Willing

For more information or for suggestions on monthly classroom activities/home projects please see: [Virtues in Practice](#) program website or contact a member of the 2018-2019 Virtues Committee. Also, for .pdf versions of ALL *Virtues in Practice* materials please see the [Catholic Identity](#) tab at [All Saints'](#) website.

Teachers/Parents/Grandparents: If you are interested in joining the Virtues Committee please contact a current member via All Saints email. The committee meets once per month (a Thursday from about 3:00-3:45) in order to plan for staff meetings and develop strategies to support the *Virtues in Practice* program here at ASCS. Thanks so much for your time & talent!

Please continue praying the *Act of Charity* with your families. We are all working together to show children that God is first and foremost in our lives. The graces from this prayer are needed to open hearts, to guide leaders, and to beg the healing that only Our Lord can provide. Have a wonderful month!

Act of Charity

*O my God, I love you above all things,
with my whole heart and soul,
because You are all good
and worthy of all love.*

*I love my neighbor as myself
for the love of You.*

*I forgive all who have injured me,
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.*

Amen.