

## Pope Francis Audience 20 March 2024

We are devoting today's catechesis to the virtue of *prudence*. Along with justice, fortitude and temperance, it is one of the so-called cardinal virtues, which are not the exclusive prerogative of Christians, but rather belong to the heritage of ancient wisdom, in particular of the Greek philosophers. Therefore, one of the most interesting themes in the work of encounter and inculturation was precisely that of the virtues.

In medieval writings, the presentation of the virtues is not simply a list of the positive qualities of the soul. Returning to the classical authors in the light of Christian revelation, theologians imagined the septenary of virtues –three theological and four cardinal – as a sort of living organism, in which each virtue has a harmonious space to occupy. There are essential virtues and accessory virtues, like pillars, columns and capitals. Indeed, perhaps nothing better renders the idea of the harmony between man and his continual aspiration towards good than a medieval cathedral.

So, let us begin with prudence. It is not the virtue of the timorous person, always hesitant about what action to take. No, this is a mistaken interpretation. It is not even merely caution. Granting primacy to prudence means that the action of man is in the hands of his *intelligence and freedom*. The prudent person is creative: he or she reasons, evaluates, tries to understand the complexity of reality and does not allow him- or herself to be overwhelmed by emotions, idleness, pressures and illusions.

In a world dominated by appearances, by superficial thoughts, by the triviality of both good and bad, the ancient lesson of prudence deserves to be revived.

Saint Thomas, in the wake of Aristotle, called it "*recta ratio agibilium*". It is the capacity to govern actions in order to direct them towards good; for this reason, it is dubbed the "coachman of the virtues". Prudent are those who are able to choose: as long as it remains in the books, life is always easy, but in the midst of the wind and waves of daily life it is another matter; often we are uncertain and do not know which way to go. The prudent do not choose by chance: first of all, they know what they want, then they weigh up the situations, seek advice, and with a broad outlook and inner freedom, they choose which path to embark upon. That is not to say they do not make mistakes: after all, we are all human; but at least they avoid major setbacks. Unfortunately, in every environment there is someone who tends to dismiss problems with superficial jokes, or to incite controversy. Prudence is instead the quality of those who are called to govern: the know that to administer is difficult, that there are many points of view and one must try to harmonize them, that one must do not the good of some but of all.

Prudence also teaches that, as they say, "the perfect is the enemy of the good". Indeed, too much zeal in some situations can cause disasters: it can ruin a construction that would have needed gradualness; it can give rise to conflicts and misunderstandings; it can even trigger violence.

The prudent person knows how to safeguard the *memory of the past*, not out of fear for the future, but because he or she knows that tradition is a patrimony of wisdom. Life is made up of a constant overlapping of old and new things, and it is not good always to think that the world begins with us, that we have to deal with problems starting from scratch. And the prudent person is also *prescient*. Once one has decided on the goal to strive for, it is necessary to obtain all the means to reach it.

Many passages of the Gospel help educate us in prudence. For example: the prudent man builds his house on the rock, and the imprudent builds his on sand (cf. *Mt 7:24-27*). Wise are the damsels who carry oil for their lamps and foolish those who do not (cf. *Mt 25:1-13*). The Christian life is a combination of simplicity and shrewdness. Preparing His disciples for the mission, Jesus recommends: "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (*Mt 10:16*). As if to say that God does not only want us to be saints, He wants us to be intelligent saints, because without prudence, taking the wrong path is a moment's mistake

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### PALM SUNDAY



#### HOLY MASS

**Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.**

**Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.  
10:30 am Creole, Church.  
12:30 pm Spanish, Church.**

**Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.**

**Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.**

**05:30 pm Upper Room  
St. Maria Goretti.**

#### SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.**

**1st Confession: 24 May, 2024.**

**1st Communions: 02 June, 2024.**

**Confirmations: TBC (20 October, 2024).**

**Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.**

**Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.**

**Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.**

Today is Passion Sunday or more commonly Palm Sunday.

Today you will hear the proclamation of the Lord's Passion. I think it important to find oneself among the host of characters. For example, are you Peter, who in front of a servant girl denies that he knows Jesus? This could be in any situation, say at work or among friends you fail to proclaim your faith. Have you ever betrayed Jesus, like Judas? Or are you like the high priest and the elders and the scribes, looking to find sin in the other person, out of jealousy? Again, you could be like Pilate, who in the face of a clear injustice allows the people to have their way and washes his hands of the whole affair. I hope you can see yourself in somehow like one of these characters or groups of people. Why is this important? Because if you begin to see how you really are you can shed tears of remorse, like St. Peter. In the face of the Jesus' crucifixion there is no escape. All of us have put Him there in one way or another. Perhaps you do not talk to some people or will have nothing to do with certain people or groups of people. I hope that in listening to the proclamation of Christ's passion you start to see that you are wrong. That, for example, not having anything to do with certain people is not right; or speaking badly about them is also sinful and regretful. May the passion of the Lord bring us all to see the great need you have for a conversion of heart. We cannot be bystanders in all of this due to our sinfulness which we cannot possibly justify, even if at times you try. Let this reading 'convict' us and may the Lord grant us a truly remorseful heart to prepare us for the coming Holy Week which will be crowned next Sunday with Christ's rising from the dead, just as we too can rise from our own spiritual death because of our sins.

Fr. Paul

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**MORNING PRAYER:** Monday to Wednesday at 6:20am

### PALM SUNDAY

**March 23: 05:30 pm** English

**March 24 09:00 am** English

**\*Solemn Procession from downtown to the church. Gather at Treasury carpark at. 10:00 am**

**11:00 am** Multilingual in the church.

### HOLY THURSDAY— March 28

**06:30 pm** Mass of the Lord's Supper and washing of the feet. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

### GOOD FRIDAY — March 29

**03:00 pm** The Passion of the Lord. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

**04:15 pm** Living Stations of the Cross, performed by HFA students.

### SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

**March 30 10:30 pm**

(There will NOT be any Mass, Saturday at 05:30pm).

### EASTER SUNDAY

**March 31: 09:00 am** English .

**11:00 am** Multilingual

**05:30 pm** English.

## Parish Events March 24-31

### Sunday

**Holy Mass: 09:00 am and 11am**

Coeur de Marie Children's group.

Fraternite, Red Room.

Creole Youth Choir practice.

Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.

Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd

Sunday at church.

04:00pm

05:00pm

05:00pm

05:30pm

06:00pm

### Monday

05:00pm

Confession near Holy Door

05:30pm

Daily Mass, SMG

07:00pm

Catechesis in Creole Parish Hall

### Tuesday

05:00pm

Confession near Holy Door

05:30 pm

Daily Mass, SMG

### Wednesday

05:00pm

Confession near Holy Door

05:30 pm

Mass in SMG

### HOLY Thursday

06:30pm

**Mass of the Lord's supper**

### GOOD Friday

03:00pm

**The Passion of the Lord**

04:15pm

Live Stations of the Cross

### HOLY Saturday

10:30pm

**EASTER VIGIL**



## School Notes

**Holy Family Academy**

**Tel: (+1649) 941-7875**



HFA students are preparing for the Holy Week with the rehearsal for the Stations of the Cross Play and the songs for Palm Sunday.

The HFA team is competing in the TCISS Inter Primary Track and Field Championship, gaining so far the third and second place.

[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://www.hfa.catholic.tc)

### SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!



### SPLASH DAY!

Be part of our fun water day by contributing with any of the items in our list!

- Water ballons
- Inflatable pools
- Snow cone & pop corn machine
- Snow cone cups and syrup

