

The Virtue of Fortitude (Courage)

-Our Heavenly Father has a loving desire to see the image of His Son reproduced in each one of us.

Jesus perfectly lived all the virtues. We need to be docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and ask Mary to intercede for us.

-The word virtue comes from the Latin word *virtus*, which basically means power, strength, valor, or manliness.

-A **virtue** is a **good habit** (repeated good acts) in the intellectual order (correct thinking patterns) or in the moral order (making correct choices from the heart/will).

-The virtue of fortitude, which is one of the four cardinal virtues, has two senses: (1) an attitude to be firm in doing the correct things, and (2) a choice with God's grace to pursue difficult things in order to love God and neighbor, even when faced with grave danger to bodily health or life. [Think about the fireman who runs into a burning building to save a child. He has fortitude or courage.]

-The Catholic Tradition is to study the virtues and strive to live them with God's help.

-Here are some virtues that fall under virtue of fortitude:

(1) **Magnanimity**—the virtue by which one seeks excellence in all things, especially great things. [The greatest things are to glorify God. Do we try hard to be the best version of ourselves and build up God's Kingdom? Do we try to make disciples for Christ and teach others what Jesus taught? (**Mt 28:19-20**). The whole purpose of marriage is to bring children into the Kingdom of God and help each other get into heaven. The father is supposed to be the spiritual leader. If both spouses sought magnanimity together, the world would be a much better place (see **Eph 5:21-33**). The more we pray and live the Gospel with God's grace, the more magnanimous we become.]

(2) **Magnificence**—the virtue by which one uses his wealth to do great things. [Are we using our wealth to build up God's Kingdom? The Bible recommends that we work toward tithing, since everything we earn is a result of the gifts God has given us.]

(3) **Patience**—virtue by which one endures hardship as to maintain a course set out by reason. [Are we patient with those who psychologically or emotionally off? Do we tell them about God and His goodness? **2 Tim 1:8** states: "[B]ear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God."]

(4) **Perseverance**—virtue by which one persists in a hard thing until the goal is reached.

(5) **Longanimity**—longness of soul; the ability to await the good. [Can we begin a long project and hope for

the good that will come down the road? Do we strive to become holy Catholics?]

(6) **Mortification**—willingness to suffer. [Are we willing to "empty" ourselves so that the Lord can fill us? Are you willing to fast from media and replace that time with prayer and spiritual study? Truth sets us free!]

-Here are some vices (bad habits) that work against the virtue of fortitude:

(1) **Fear/cowardice**—a vice in which one is afraid of enduring a good (e.g., spiritual reading, prayer time, etc.) because he thinks it is too hard. ["It's too hard to be Catholic; there are too many rules." In **Mt 25:14-31**, Jesus talks about the parable of the talents. Two people use God's gifts and build up His Kingdom. One guy, out of fear, buried his talent. He ends up in hell, where this is wailing and grinding of teeth. Don't be that guy!]

(2) **Audacity/recklessness**—excessive recklessness toward imminent danger without reasonable fear. [Think about some of the people who do extreme sports and break bones or even die. They could have been glorifying God, instead of always trying to be tough.]

(3) **Presumption**—disordered love of oneself and one's own excellence.

(4) **Ambition**—disordered striving for an honor above one's excellence.

(5) **Vainglory**—disordered desire for glory to be known by others. [Vainglory is dangerous because of its overconfidence, which begets disobedience, boastfulness, hypocrisy, contention, obstinacy, discord, and the love of new things in order to become "superior" to others.]

(6) **Pusillanimity**—smallness of soul; the habit of not striving for excellence. [Do we want to live life to the fullest (see **Jn 10:10**) by developing God's gifts in us, or do we want to become like "Bart Simpson" and live an undeveloped life? Do we do things for the Church, or do we blend into the walls as unknowns? No one knows we are Catholic!]

(7) **Parvificence/stinginess**—unwillingness to use one's wealth to do great things.

(8) **Effeminacy/softness**—an unwillingness to put aside pleasure in order to engage in activities that are hard and make us better. [Did we grow up in families that complained a lot, or quit things when they seemed too hard, or blamed others? Attitude: "I deserve a comfortable life." Some skip Mass to enjoy pro football, putting creatures ahead of the Creator.]

(9) **Pertinacity**—excessive or stubborn attachment to one's opinions. [This might be a person who thinks he knows more than the Church, so he is contentious and disobedient. The "un-holy trinity"—me, myself, and I.]

Letter to Parents regarding Religious Education

Dear Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians,

God tells us in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4: *We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen.*

As volunteer teachers, we give thanks to God for you for teaching the faith to your children. We are praying for you to grow in your faith, hope, and love for God. We realize that God desires all to have a deep friendship with Him.

Here is some initial information regarding the 2017-18 Religious Education (RE) year.

Class locations, dates, and times:

Our Lady of the Snow (OLS): Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. St. Peter (StP): Sundays, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

First class date: tentatively, Thursday, September 6 (OLS). Sunday, September 9 (StP). Parents, meet your teachers and feel free to sit in on all classes. Your teachers will give you class schedule for the year.

Cost: The cost is \$20. *Please contact the office 970.887.0032 if you have trouble paying.*

-The RE schedule for OLS will be posted on www.GrandCatholic.com soon.

- Please spread the word to others and have them call the office; 970.887.0032. *You are the best way we have to reach others who we may not see regularly.*

- We will be using the *New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism* textbooks.

In all things, parents, you are the primary educators of your children. Your mission is to get your spouse and kids into heaven, with a life of prayer, teaching, and example. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, excerpts from paragraphs 2221-2226 we see what God expects in families and parents:

“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute” [2221]. “Parents must regard their children as children of God...they educate their children to fulfill God’s law” [2222]. Parents should teach their children to put spiritual needs ahead of material needs [2223]. The home is the natural environment to teach children to be holy members of a community (Church and society), in order to help others and to be in solidarity with them. Rugged individualism is against God’s teaching [2224]. “Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate

their children at an early age into the mysteries of faith of which they are the ‘first heralds’ of their children” [2225]. “Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation [to become a priest, sister, married, single] as children of God” [2226].

With this truth being stated, we are asking you—using the courage, freedom, and responsibility that God gave you—to take charge of the spiritual development of your children. Teach them at home and help them with their homework (and any missed class work). We will assist you by teaching them at our churches. Just as you help them with their regular schoolwork, you will be teaching your children grade-school level material about God and His Church. *You do not have to be an expert; you just have to love your children.* By practicing your faith, going to Mass every weekend and cultivating a daily prayer life, you set an example for your children. You send an authentic message to your children. Your example will root their faith in their entire being. (Mere heart or head knowledge is not enough). By setting this example, you will teach your children to become saints! This is the goal for each of us! Remember, in Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, “*Let the children come to me.*” When you go to the Lord, your children will learn to go to Him too!

We will gladly give you a Rosary DVD to use as a tool to teach your children how to pray the Rosary. Just ask for one from Valerie or Fr. Michael.

This year as we continue to lower Confirmation age, now at 3rd grade, we are requiring at least one parent to attend classes taught by Fr. Peter that are at the exact same time the child is in RE class. This is to maintain continuity for the child’s learning of religious education and the good of the family. Classes, if missed, must be made up. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Peter at 970.364.0170 or father.wojda@archden.org.

Practically, we all set an example living the virtue of the “golden rule”—treat others how you want to be treated. Please have your children arrive on time, or call their individual teachers if they will be late or miss class. For safety reasons, please escort your children to the inside of the church do not simply drop them off. We would appreciate your presence, and volunteers to sit in on your children’s classes and assist the teachers.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Michael Fr. Peter Valerie Steineck
Crystal Ratcliff JoAnna Givens Teachers*

Funeral for Randall DeBey, Tuesday, StA; 11 a.m.

Randall died a few days ago. He grew up in Grand County. The funeral will be on Tuesday, **August 7 at 11 a.m.** at **St. Anne**. Here is your chance to perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy—pray for the living and the dead; assist in burying the dead with prayers.

Novena to Prepare for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It begins on Monday, August 6. Available at the exits of the Churches.

Recruiting Teachers for Religious Education

Here is your chance to perform a spiritual work of mercy. We are looking for role models who can teach for about 21 Thursday evenings during the year, from September to February (with breaks during Thanksgiving and Christmas). Will you help Jesus teach our children?

Please contact your priests, or call Valerie at 303-815-0055. We will meet on August 16, OLS, 6:30 p.m.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Holy Day of Obligation

-Tue, Aug 14, **StI**, 5:30 p.m. (Vigil)

-Wed, Aug 15, **StB**, 8:30 a.m.

-Wed, Aug 15, **StA**, 5 p.m.

-Wed, Aug 15, **OLS**, 6:45 p.m.

-Wed, Aug 15, **StP**, 6:30 p.m.

Call to Prayer: Get Out Your Weapons!

Each Friday, August 3 – September 28, answer the U. S. bishops' call to pray and fast that a change in the U.S. Supreme Court will move our nation closer to the day when every human being is protected and welcomed in life. Join at www.usccb.org/pray/

If you go to this above website, click on the Novena for the Legal Protection of Human Life each Friday, from August 3, 2018 to September 28, 2018. Click on the day, pray the prayer, read the small blurb, and pray one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the intention of the novena. Participants will also be provided with weekly opportunities to learn more about Roe v. Wade and share that information with their representatives.

Rockies Tickets for Altar Servers and Their Families on Thursday, August 23

We have 40 Rockies tickets for the afternoon game (1:10 p.m.) at Coors Field on Thursday, August 23. Call the office and ask Angela for the tickets. The tickets are in section 117, rows 15-18.

We thank our anonymous donor for helping us reward our servers. Thanks to all the families who get their children to Mass early to serve.

Men of the Parish, Ask Yourselves: “Is God Calling Me to be a Deacon?”

Who will be the next deacon to serve with Deacon Jim in Grand and Jackson Counties? Who will make the sacrifice? Please pray and see Deacon Jim or your priests before September 1.

Deacon Day of Prayer: pray for Deacon Jim and all deacons on August 10, the feast of St. Lawrence. Also, pray for men to answer the call to become deacons.

Vacancy on the Board of Directors for the Pregnancy Resource Connection

Being on the Board is both rewarding and inspiring. The time commitment is minimal. Please call Pat Pulliam for more information at 361-442-3532 or email patpulliamjmj@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

-**Aug 15 (Wed)**. Holy Day: Assumption of Mary

-**Aug 23 (Thu)**. Rockies game for servers and families

Mass Collections, July 28 – 29

St. Anne	\$ 2001
St. Bernard	2308
Our Lady of the Snow	1722
St. Peter	762
St. Ignatius	514
Total	\$ 7307

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—Blaise Buches & Daniel Rivas

Sun—Jason DiRito & Rommy Goyes

Mon—David Hall & Drew Jones & Jun Pham

Tue—Drazen Hosi & Javier Moreton

Wed—All men called to the diaconate

Thu—Trevor Lontine & Kyle McDonald

Fri—Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Aug 4, StA, 5 p.m., Repose of souls—Burbach fam.

-Sat, Aug 4, StB, 5:30 p.m., Patrick and Lisa Hayes

-Sun, Aug 5, StB, 7 a.m., People in our region & visitors

-Sun, Aug 5, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Bill McManus

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Aug 6, StA, 8:30 a.m., +Garry Creath

-Tue, Aug 7, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Norman Carpenter

-**Tue, Aug 7, StA, 11 a.m., Funeral for Randall DeBey**

-Wed, Aug 8, StB, 8:30 a.m., Timothy and Jodee Seitz

-**Thu, Aug 9, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Burbach—repose of souls**

-**Fri, Aug 10, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Peter/M.K. Savarie**

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Aug 5, StP, 10 a.m., People in our region & visitors

-Sun, Aug 5, StI, 1 p.m., Neil and Danita McGinn