

# Discipleship Take Home Packet

December 19, 2018-January 9, 2019

Virtue of the Month: Common Sense (Prudence)

**Right reason in action**

The virtue of Common Sense helps us to keep things in perspective. During the holiday season, it can be easy to get overwhelmed trying to make everything perfect. You may even feel so much pressure to have fun, that you can't really enjoy yourself. But you already know that Christmas is really about welcoming Jesus into your life rather than creating the perfect holiday experience. Trust your Common Sense and you will thrive.

Common Sense also helps us make the best choices throughout the year. This virtue helps us decide whether to spend our money on impulse purchases or to invest in getting out of debt, helping others, and purchasing quality goods. Common Sense reminds us to stop eating sweets before we start feeling sick and to exercise so that we feel better. Common Sense reminds us that it's not a good idea to bring up the same argument we always have with our family members. This virtue helps us to see what the most moral action would be and how to get there. Think about a decision that you need to make soon. For example, are you going to make a New Year's Resolution? Ask God to help you make Common Sense decisions. Ask yourself if you need more information to make the best decision. Do you need help from a trusted friend? Gather the resources you need, make a decision, and then follow through. You'll be surprised by what you can accomplish with this virtue!

## Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts to receive God's word. Help us to grow in the virtue of Common Sense. We ask this in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Read aloud: Sirach 37:10-15

- 1) Why does the author advise you not to take advice from certain people?
- 2) In the order of importance, who does he say you should take advice from?
- 3) Do you agree with this passage? Why or why not?



## Activity: Placing Jesus on Your Christmas Tree

**Receive your ornament at Mass on Dec 22nd or 23rd**

Find a good spot for your ornament and place it on the Christmas tree. Say the following prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to us at Christmas. Be with us today in our home and in our lives. Help us to be a holy household, to love you and to love our family, friends and neighbors the way you love us. Give us the gift of Common Sense so that we can focus on the important things and stop worrying about the small things. We love you Jesus. Amen.*

**Common Sense: Right reason in action/ Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Saintly Example

### St. Joseph Cupertino (1603-1663, Italy)

As a boy, Joseph was looked down on by his parents, his classmates and those who lived in his village. Though he was kind, he just couldn't seem to do anything right. Joseph was a terrible student, he couldn't tell jokes or stories because he would always mess up the ending, and he always seemed to lose things. His mother tried to get him trained as a shoemaker, but he was too distracted to listen to directions. So Joseph tried to become a Friar, a religious man, but was rejected by two communities because of his low intelligence.

It seemed that no one wanted Joseph around—not even his mother, who did everything she could to convince the Franciscan Conventual Friars to take him back after they had already rejected him. Eventually they did agree to take him back, but only as a servant. They gave him the only job they thought he could do—take care of the donkey. Though Joseph wasn't smart, he was joyful and kind. He happily took care of the donkey, welcomed people, and helped the poor. Joseph loved God and prayed often. The community soon recognized that though Joseph wasn't book smart, he knew what was really important. So Joseph was sent to study for the priesthood. He was a terrible student again, but miraculously managed to pass. While taking one exam, the bishop asked him the only question he knew how to answer, and in another exam, Joseph was given a passing grade without being asked anything.

As a priest and a friar, Joseph was still absentminded and often forgetful. He began having intense visions of God that would stop him in his tracks. One moment he might be praying or doing chores, and the next he would be floating in the air, unable to see or hear the people around him. Other friars would burn his hands or feet to see if he would wake up, but only an order from his superior would bring him back to earth. Eventually, Joseph became so well known for these episodes that people flocked to see him. So he was sent away to live in isolation. St. Joseph became the patron saint of pilots, astronauts, and test-takers. He is also loved by those who feel misunderstood or judged for not being smart enough.

- 1) What was your favorite part about St. Joseph's story?
- 2) Though St. Joseph Cupertino was not intelligent, he did know what was really important.

How did his actions show this?



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## Advent Meditation: Meeting Mary and Jesus (Luke 1:39-47)

**Directions:** Read the following to your family members.

*We are going to do an advent meditation. As I read through a scripture passage, close your eyes and picture yourself in the story. Imagine the smells, the sights and the sounds in the room. Make it as realistic as possible. Pay attention to any images or words that jump out at you.*

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."



*Reflect on the words or images jumped out at you. What was most powerful to you?*

*I will now read the scripture a second time. Place yourself in the scene. Be in the presence of Elizabeth and Mary. This time I will extend the reading, adding a meditation at the end and a chance for you to talk to God.*

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

As you stand in the presence of Elizabeth and Mary, the Virgin mother turns to you and smiles. Her eyes dance with joy. She lovingly places a hand on her stomach where the baby Jesus grows. You ask if He too is leaping for joy. She smiles. Mary asks if you would like to feel the baby move. She gently takes your hand and places it on her stomach. What do you feel? Jesus is so close, but you cannot see him yet. You know that Christmas is coming, that he will soon arrive. Are you ready to see Jesus face to face?

You know that unborn babies can hear noises and that Jesus can hear you now. Speak to him. What do you want to say to Him? *(pause)*

Jesus wants to answer you. He places a word or an image in your mind. What is he saying? *(pause)*

Mary pats your hand and smiles at you. She thanks you for coming to visit Jesus and invites you to return any time. Mary gives you a hug and you leave the small house filled with peace, knowing that Christmas is coming soon.

When you are ready, open your eyes.

**Discuss:** What did you experience? Did you like this meditation? Why or why not?

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