

Daily Homily  
Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday  
20 October 2021  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

In 1997, right before priesthood ordination, Bishop Anthony Pilla gave my class some last minute advice before being sent out into our parish assignments. He spoke extensively on the virtue of prudence. I have never forgotten that bit of advice and whenever the word comes up, it helps me to recall that conversation with Bishop Pilla.

Jesus praises the prudent servant today.

Prudence means to be wise in discerning our true good in every circumstance and to have the forethought of knowing where our actions and decisions will lead us.

Prudence is the king of all the virtues given that it allows a person to treat everything with care, caution, discretion, foresight, and mindful attentiveness.

In Renaissance art Prudence is illustrated as having three faces: the wolf which devours the past – so we don't dwell there, the lion who has the courage to face the present – so we move forward, and the dog who offers resilient steadfastness to face the future – so we remain faithful no matter what's coming our way. Prudence is encapsulated in all this. (See the painting, Allegory in Prudence; artist: Titan)

The opposite of Prudence? Foolishness ... recklessness... folly.

Who then is the faithful, prudent steward? The Gospel question of the day! You?

Pray then for the virtues: Justice, Fortitude, Temperance and Prudence along with faith, hope and charity. Pray that Prudence can regulate them all and keep them all in check. When that prayer is heard, know that more will be expected of you.