

Name _____

Date _____

Virtues and Vices

Virtues are attitudes or ways of acting that lead us to live in a close relationship with God. Virtues are like habits and need to be used, or they can be lost.

Virtues

The three most important virtues—called Theological Virtues because they come from God and lead to God—are faith, hope, and charity.

- ▶ Faith means belief in God and in his plan for us.
- ▶ Hope means that we trust God to take care of us and help us be close to him for eternity.
- ▶ Charity is love for God and others—living the Great Commandment that Jesus has given: Love God above all and love our neighbors as we love ourselves.



There are also four cardinal virtues. Their name comes from a Latin word meaning “that on which other things depend.”

- ▶ Prudence is the ability to choose the best way to act to do good and be close to God.
- ▶ Justice is the commitment to respect the rights of others; it helps us be fair.
- ▶ Fortitude is the moral strength and courage to do what is right.
- ▶ Temperance is the ability to control ourselves and our desires; it also helps us treat creation with care and not waste resources.

Vices

Just as virtues are habits that lead us to do good, vices are habits that lead us to do wrong. Christian Tradition has outlined seven vices, or sins, as extremely serious, or capital. The seven capital sins are pride, envy, wrath (anger), sloth, avarice (greed), gluttony, and lust.

Understanding Virtues

On the back of this page, list four virtues and describe them. Then give examples on how to put these virtues into action.