

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



As we recover from the chaos and pain caused by a loved one's addiction, we realize that wholesale change is needed—not just in them, but in us. If we are to live in peace, serenity, and freedom, we must order our lives around new principles. Slowly, we shed layers of control, fear, and resentment, replacing them with virtues that the Church names as prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

Prudence helps us discern wisely. We lean on a supportive fellowship of others who understand the challenges of living with addiction in the family. Their shared wisdom reframes our perspective and reminds us that we can trust God's timing and will. As we grow in prayer and surrender, we become more attuned to the Spirit guiding our judgment.

Justice helps us treat others with fairness, even when we have been hurt. In recovery, this might mean making amends for the ways our own controlling or enabling behaviors have impacted relationships. It also means learning to pray for the same peace and serenity for others that we seek for ourselves. Justice calls us to examine our conduct and release bitterness so that healing can take root.

Fortitude gives us the courage to face fear and heartache without falling back into old patterns. It strengthens us to hold boundaries, to resist the temptation to manipulate outcomes, and to trust God even when uncertainty remains. Fortitude reminds us that serenity is possible even in the midst of unresolved family struggles.

Temperance teaches us balance and moderation in our responses. For family members, this may mean no longer overreacting to crises or allowing our loved one's choices to dictate our peace. By practicing restraint, delaying judgment, and pausing before speaking or acting, we find freedom from compulsive worry or reactivity.

These virtues contribute to a new way of living that is sustained by prayer, fellowship, and accountability. They shape our capacity to move forward in freedom, rooted in trust in God rather than fear of circumstances.

This Sunday's Gospel brings these themes together as Jesus teaches through the parable of the steward (Luke 16:10–13):

*The person who is trustworthy in very small matters
is also trustworthy in great ones;
and the person who is dishonest in very small matters
is also dishonest in great ones.
If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth,
who will trust you with true wealth?
If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another,
who will give you what is yours?
No servant can serve two masters.
He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve both God and mammon.*

For us, the choice is clear: we cannot serve both control and trust in God. Each day, as we live by these virtues, we grow more trustworthy in small matters and find serenity even when life does not go as planned.

Reflection Questions

- Which of the four virtues—prudence, justice, fortitude, or temperance—do you most need to strengthen in your family relationships?
- How do you see Jesus’ teaching on trustworthiness applying to the way you respond to your loved one?
- What does it mean for you to “serve God, not mammon” in your family situation?

A Day of Hope and Healing

*A virtual recovery summit co-hosted by
Catholic in Recovery and iTHIRST Initiative*

- Special one-day event on **Friday, September 26**
- Join fellow CIR community members from around the world for a day of faith, fellowship, and renewal
- Keynote speakers include Dr. Matthew Breuninger, Dawn Eden Goldstein, and Fr. Sean Kilcawley
- Catholic in Recovery meetings and interactive workshops
- Praise & worship music, prayer, and testimonies of hope
- Register at catholicinrecovery.com/2025-summit

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13