SAINT AGNES SCHOOL

2026-2027 Upper School Education in Virtue

"We believe that it is our mission to provide students with a foundation by which they are truly made free to seek truth and live joyful, productive lives informed by reason and virtue in order to help bear witness to the kingdom of God in our day."
Excerpt from the Educational Philosophy of Saint Agnes School

The virtues are habitual and firm dispositions to do what is good. Because we believe the virtues are necessary for true happiness, the language of virtue informs everything we do in the Upper School at Saint Agnes. We make that language explicit through our Education in Virtue program, a four-year cycle highlighting the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. These four are 'cardinal,' or *hinge* virtues, in the sense that all the other moral virtues can be categorized as species of one of them.

Once a month we gather for virtue convocations led by faculty members who introduce a virtue and give witness to its cultivation in everyday life. This year our theme is Temperance, the virtue that enables us to be moderate in the pleasure and use of created goods. Far from limiting our enjoyment of the goods God has made for our pleasure, temperance helps us keep reason in the driver's seat so that we take pleasure in the right things, in the right way—the way leading to true happiness. Below is our schedule for the year. *Note that October's convocation will be split between young men and young women, and in December, students will give reflections on the season of Advent in place of our monthly virtue convocation.

Month	**Virtue**	**Definition**
September	Temperance	virtue that enables us to be moderate in the pleasure and use of created goods
October	Chastity*	virtue that enables moderation of thought and action involving physical pleasure according to reason
November	Self-Control	joyful mastery over one's passions and desires
January	Orderliness	the habit of keeping oneself physically clean and neat and one's belongings in good order
February	Moderation	attention to balance in one's life
March	Modesty	purity of heart in action, especially regarding dress and speech
April	Meekness	serenity of spirit while focusing on the needs of others, meekness properly mitigates the passion of anger
May	Humility	awareness that all our gifts come from God and appreciation for the gifts of others

Recordings of these talks will be available for you to listen to at home. If you'd like more resources on virtue education, we recommend the material available through Openlight Media, a project of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.