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FORESIGHT

“LOOKING AHEAD.”

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FORESIGHT

DEFINITION

This week our strength building on the virtue of PRUDENCE is FORESIGHT

The strength to think ahead and consider what if or what might happen.

How does FORESIGHT help us make a decision if we wanted to go swimming or surfing at this beach?

Would it be PRUDENT to go swimming in October at this beach?



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NEAR OCCASIONS OF SIN

The Baltimore Catechism defines occasion of sin as “all the persons, places and things that may easily lead us into sin.” And in one version of the Act of Contrition we say, “I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more, and to avoid the near occasions of sin.”

On a practical level, what does avoiding near occasions of sin mean for us?

Well, for example, if you know that hanging-out with certain people will get you into trouble, stop meeting with them.

If visiting certain sites on the Internet causes you to get really angry, upset or have bad thoughts, stop visiting them.

If playing video games for too long causes you to become more lazy and selfish, stop playing them.

If looking at your phone while in your bed causes you to get less sleep, stop looking at your phone or put it further away from your bed.

We’re well-intentioned but we’re also weak, sinful creatures and we easily give into temptation.

Don’t test the limits of your moral strength. If something is going to lead you into sin, avoid it.

Something to think about: What are the occasions of sin in your life? Who are the people, what are the habits, places and things that tend to get you into trouble?

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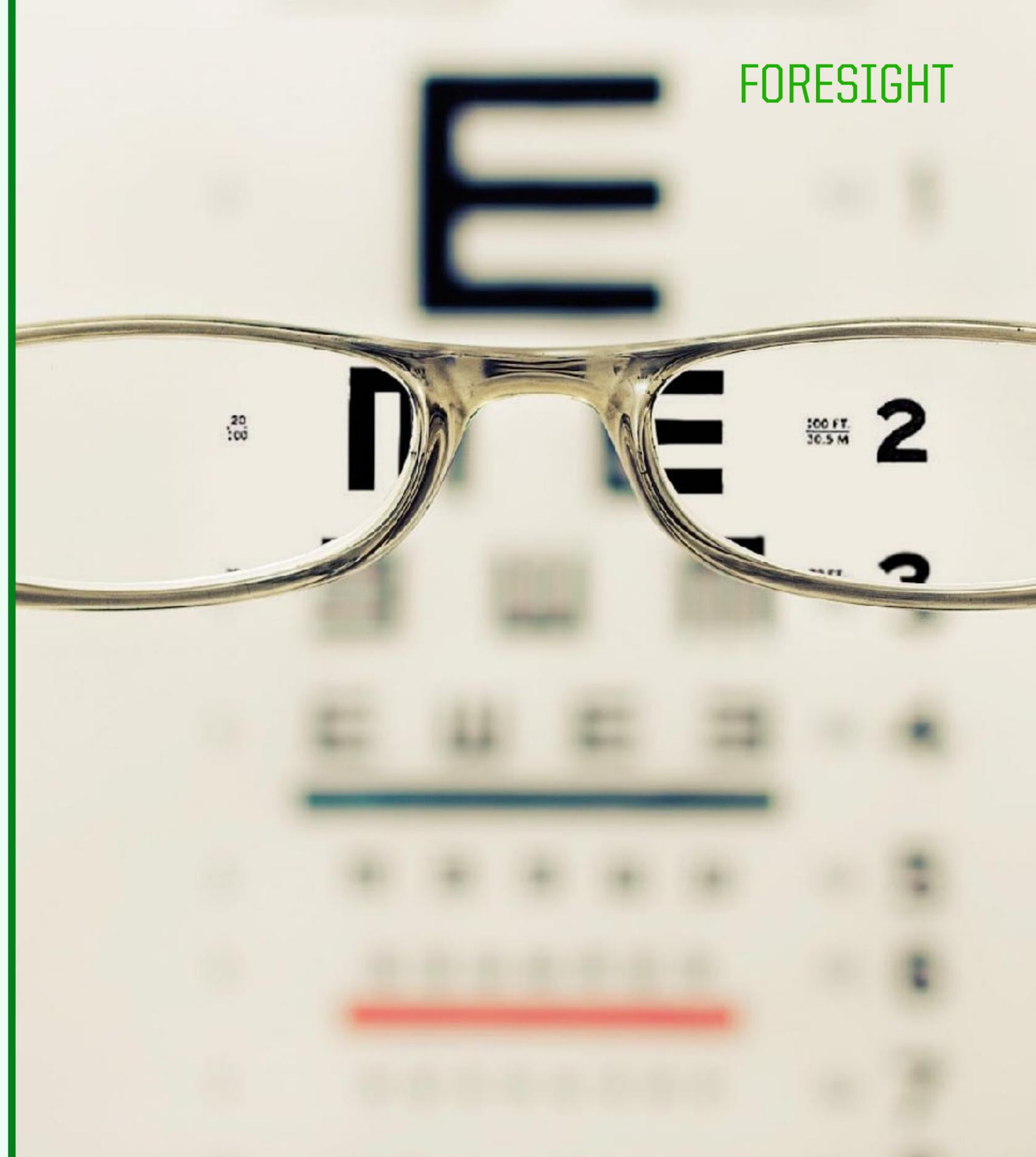
RESOLUTION

Something to think about. Do a little exam:

What are the occasions of sin in your life?

Who are the people, what are the habits, places and things that tend to get you into trouble?

Talk with your parents about this and make the resolution to avoid a near occasion of sin.



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SAINT STORY

ST. SEBASTIAN

256-287

January 20

Patron Saint of Athletes

Sebastian entered the Roman army because only there could he assist the martyrs without arousing suspicion. Sebastian had prudently concealed his faith, but in 286 it was detected. Diocletian reproached him for his supposed betrayal, and he commanded him to be led to a field and there to be bound to a stake so that the chosen archers from Mauretania would shoot arrows at him. "And the archers shot at him till he was as full of arrows as an urchin is full of pricks, and thus left him there for dead." Miraculously, the arrows did not kill him. The widow of Castulus, St. Irene of Rome, went to retrieve his body to bury it, and discovered he was still alive. She brought him back to her house and nursed him back to his health.

Sebastian later stood by a staircase where the emperor was to pass and warned Diocletian of his sins and his cruelties against Christians. This freedom of speech, and from a person whom he supposed to have been dead, greatly astonished the emperor; but recovering from his surprise, he gave orders for Sebastian to be seized and beaten to death with cudgels, and his body thrown into the common sewer. A holy lady, named Lucina, admonished by the martyr in a vision, privately removed the body and buried it in the catacombs at the entrance of the cemetery of Calixtus, where now stands the Basilica of St. Sebastian.

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SMALL GROUP DIFFICULT SITUATION DISCUSSION

What is the definition of foresight?

*The strength to think ahead and consider
what if or what might happen.*

You're driving back home.

It's late, raining and you are pretty tired.

You have to get up early the next morning to drive
somewhere else.

You notice that you are near empty, that you really
need to get gas.

What things should you consider to help you make
the decision on whether you should get gas now
before going home or tomorrow morning?

FORESIGHT





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UNPREPAREDNESS

The weakness of failing to think ahead
and prepare.

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VICE

DISCUSS WHAT COULD GO WRONG HERE

This family is having a picnic right next to an active volcano.

If that lava suddenly burst forth ... what would happen? Would they be prepared?

We have learned about Prudence, Circumspection and Foresight this month.

We have also looked at the opposing vices of Imprudence, Carelessness and Unpreparedness.

Maybe they are a bit too close?

Are there times that we do things with Imprudence, Carelessness and Unpreparedness?





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