

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Anointing of the Sick and Talking Turkey

Communal Anointing of the Sick on November 10. One of the great sacraments of our Church is the Anointing of the Sick. I have seen seriously ill people improve dramatically in their physical health after being anointed with sacramentally blessed oil. I have seen other people who were anointed not improve in their physical health but receive emotional and spiritual strengthening to embrace illness or prepare for death.

The Catholic Catechism describes the effects of the Anointing of the Sick as follows: the uniting of the person's suffering to the suffering of Christ for the good of the person and the Church; the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure the sufferings of illness or old age; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person has not been able to obtain it through the sacrament of penance; the restoration of health, if God deems it is conducive to the salvation of one's soul; and, preparation for passing over to eternal life (CCC 1532).

Father Thien and I will administer the Anointing of the Sick communally following the 4:00 P.M. Vigil Mass on Saturday, November 10. We intend to offer the communal Anointing of the Sick quarterly henceforth. Feel free to avail yourself of the sacrament if you are experiencing significant illness or suffering.

Talking Turkey. Thanksgiving Day (Turkey Day) will be here soon. This is a special day to thank God for all our national blessings and personal blessings and to spend time with family and loved ones. We will have two special opportunities to help the poor and needy celebrate Thanksgiving.

The annual *Turkey Bingo* fundraiser will take place on Sunday, November 11, beginning at 1:00 P.M. in the school auditorium. There will be food, sweets, prizes and bingo. Bring a canned good to support the work of Deacon Ed's Food Bank, Helping Hand Ministry and St. Vincent de Paul Ministry. Come pass a good time and help the needy in the process.

The same three ministries will sponsor the annual *Thanksgiving Basket* drive, which provides Thanksgiving food for needy families. You can purchase a Thanksgiving dinner for a family for \$50 or donate goods for the baskets. Checks payable to St. Francis Xavier (earmarked "Thanksgiving Basket") can be put into the collection at Mass or dropped off at the Parish Center. Canned goods can be left at church or the Parish Center. Let's help the poor celebrate Thanksgiving by participating in these outreaches.

God bless,

Fr. Joe