

In a Spirit of Thanksgiving

Dear Friends, on Thanksgiving Day we recall the prayer ***“BLESSED ARE YOU, LORD GOD OF ALL CREATION, FOR THROUGH YOUR GOODNESS WE HAVE RECEIVED THE BREAD WE OFFER YOU, FRUIT OF THE EARTH AND WORK OF HUMAN HANDS...”*** As we offer our gifts of bread and wine at the Altar, we recall with gratitude the source of all that we have and are. This is the meaning of the American Thanksgiving Day. The turkey, the ham, the stuffing, the trimmings, the pies and etc, that make our thanksgiving dinner palatable are symbolic of the deliciousness that we found in the things of the earth given to man and woman from the bounty of the Almighty Father.

Thanksgiving is appropriately a time of deep reflection for us. Beyond the turkey and other trimmings, thanksgiving teaches us to find reasons to smile and bond with our loved ones. Appropriately so, it is a time of unalloyed gratitude for our family, friends and community.

I am incredibly thankful for having the opportunity to love and serve the Lord God with you all, the men, women and children of our dearly St. Luke Catholic church. As each day passes by, I am always astounded by the dedication, altruism and immense compassion that envelop the lives of every faithful brother and sister in our faith community. This is not to mention the divinely orchestrated transformation over the past years as a result of your outstanding efforts and discipleships.

I am particularly thankful for all the folks who give their most treasured time and talent and treasure to bring to fruition the mission of Christ in this faith community and the ongoing renewal of the Vision and Mission of St. Luke church. With you and with our cooperation we fittingly celebrate with thanksgiving the impacted lives that God has entrusted into our care.

As the events of Thanksgiving end and begin, I am hopeful that you will come to know that you have many things to be thankful for, both spiritually and physically. Dear Friends, when you can, I encourage you to allow your life to be shrouded in charity by sharing with others the good news and affording them the opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life. Truly, when we graciously share our joy, faith and love, we acknowledge in gratitude the gifts without measure that we undeservingly receive from God. For this reason St. Paul enjoins us all, *“In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

May God's grace and favor grant you great quality of gratefulness today and forever!