
Take Home Youth Ministry Night for Thanksgiving

Opening Prayer

Use this song to start your evening in prayer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=53&v=J228TzIS9Co

Reflection

As some would say, it's the most wonderful time of the year! For many of us the holidays mean getting together with family you don't get the chance to see the rest of the year, and eating A LOT of food. Turkey, Ham, Pie, Cookies, potatoes and green bean casseroles...the list goes on! During this time of abundance we are grateful and give God thanks for all we have.

As with many things we get caught up in the business of the holidays and forget to look at this time of year from a different perspective. There are people who will not have tables overflowing for Thanksgiving, or presents under the tree. There are people who will be sleeping outside in the cold. There will be people who are sick and stuck in a hospital so they won't be able to see family this year. When we give God thanks for all we have, it can't stop there.

If we truly want to give God thanks for our many gifts, we need to share what he has given us with others. Anything you have to share can make a difference for someone in these winter months. This is why our parish is involved in so many different service projects during Thanksgiving and Advent.

Brainstorming

Draw a chart similar to the one below. As a family, first think of things that you want to thank God for and write them in the first column. Then brainstorm how you, out of abundance of those gifts from God, can share with others. Here are a few examples but make sure to come up with your own!

I want to thank God for...	Because of this gift I can...
My musical talent	Sing Christmas carols at the nursing home
All the food on my table this holiday season	Makes some food to take to the shelter
Family	Visit members of my family who may be older, or in assisted living
My health	Write cards for kids in hospitals over the holidays

Activity

Pick one way (or think of one of your own) that you can give back this holiday season and do it together!

- Make meatloaves and desserts for the Shelter Meal on Nov. 25th or Dec. 30th.
- Make tie blankets for the sick and those in need with the Life After Fifty group on Nov. 15th after school, or anytime on your own.
- Shop for Christmas gifts to donate to Presence Under the Tree at our Parish during December.
- Buy children's PJs to donate at the next youth ministry event for children in our community.
- Volunteer with Caring Hands for their Tukey Dinner, or other events this holiday season.
- Sign up to help with liturgical ministries for the special celebrations for Christmas. Join the choir for the Celebrate the Seasons evening of music.
- Any other ideas?

Reflection Questions

- Why is food an important part of family? Do you think it is important to share food with others?
- How can serving others build community?
- What is one of your favorite holiday memories?
- Imagine that you were in need of support this holiday season. How would it feel to have other reach out to help you?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for the feast of Thanksgiving. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work, and our play. Please send help to those who are suffering from hunger, loneliness, sickness, war, and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your Son. Amen.

