

## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

It is amazing that it is time to think about Thanksgiving and all of the celebrations that follow. One of the reasons we speak about “the holidays” is because in a short span of time we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Of course, our major “holiday” is a major “holy day,” Christmas.

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks to the Lord God for all of the blessings in our life. Beginning with the gift of life itself, we as Catholic Christians know that there is no life except from God. Likewise we recognize that faith itself comes from God as a blessed gift to assist us in this life and lead us toward heaven.

Hopefully, we all have many gifts for which we are thankful to God. For many of us, the blessing of living in the United States is a reason to give thanks. Of course, others around the world also give thanks for their living conditions, which are comfortable and in many ways beautiful. However, many people in the world, even here in the United States, live in poverty or fear or pain. Perhaps we or some of our loved ones are in that situation. We certainly ask the Lord to continue to bless us and watch over us and we pray for those who are less fortunate. We should never take what we have for granted and we should never forget those in need.

It is no wonder why so many people think of helping others during this time of year. Many in our own parish find ways to alleviate poverty, hunger or suffering of any type. Even in this bulletin, there are suggestions for ways to help: Collections for Catholic Charities, for our own Good Samaritan Fund, for food pantries. We can also provide Thanksgiving meals, Christmas gifts for the needy, etc. These are all ways to be thankful for what we have and to help those who have not.

The greatest way to give thanks for us Catholics is to participate in the Mass. Eucharist is a word that means Thanksgiving. Let us come together often to pray the Mass and give thanks and praise to God, but perhaps with special gratitude on the eve of Thanksgiving at the 7:30pm Mass or on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00am (the only Mass that day). There is no better way for us as Catholics to give thanks to God, which is the true meaning of even the original Thanksgiving.

Blessed Thanksgiving to all!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*