



THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

First Reading: Sirach 50:22-24

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed be the name of the Lord forever.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Thanksgiving 2021

The first Thanksgiving on record was held in 1610 at Jamestown, Virginia. That year, winter was so severe that settlers faced famine and lack of basic necessities. In fact, this group of 409 settlers was reduced to 60. The survivors prayed for help, without knowing when or how it might come. When help arrived in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, a thanksgiving prayer meeting was held to give thanks to God. President George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1789. President Abraham Lincoln, in the midst of the Civil War, established Thanksgiving Day as a formal holiday to express our thanks to God. In 1941 Congress passed the official proclamation declaring that Thanksgiving should be observed as a legal holiday the fourth Thursday of each November.

Thanksgiving is the day set aside to express our gratitude for the blessings and protection God has given us, for the prosperity and freedom we enjoy, and for the generosity and good will of the people we meet in our daily lives. We give thanks for our families, who stand with us whenever we are in need.

Let us be thankful and let us learn to express our thanks daily:

- a) To God for His innumerable blessings, providential care, and protection, and for the unconditional love given to us daily even when we fail to fall his will.
- b) To our parents-living and dead-for the gift of life, the care and nurturing us, and the good examples they gave us.
- c) To our relatives and friends for their loving support and timely help and encouragement.
- d) To our pastors, teachers, doctors, soldiers, police, and government officers for the service they render us.

And for me, I give thanks for your love and support. You have been the source of my strength from the time I arrived in this Parish as your Pastor. I also want to thank for the continued support of the Church especially in these difficult times. May the Good Lord bless you with hearts full of happiness as you celebrate Thanksgiving Day with your loved ones.

Fr. Gerry