

Thanksgiving



The last week of November this year included the annual day that Americans have set aside to give thanks for our blessings. Though giving thanks seems to get lost in a preoccupation with food, football, and shopping, we are called to remember the blessings our ancestors received that enabled them to survive and

form a nation. While we tend to remember a rose-colored picture of the past, the urge to give thanks is important. The national Thanksgiving holiday, is a good time to take stock. We should appreciate the achievements of our ancestors but also acknowledge their shortcomings. A sense of superiority blinds us, as it did them, to our own faults and to the values and virtues of others. This is at the root of the violence that has been so much a part of the past and is still a part of the present. This has characterized most of our relations with the people who called this place home before us and with the new emigrants who have come and are coming to this place. We highlight differences and fail to see the things we have in common. We also fail to acknowledge the deplorable wrongs done to so many in our midst because of our prejudices. We need to find common ground with others and build bridges not walls. People are more important than ideology. If our views cause harm to others, there is likely something wrong with our views. The goal should be the wellbeing of everyone not the enrichment or empowerment of a few.

We need to remember and be thankful for God's presence and the bounty he has given. We should give thanks for the the good that has come when people put forth the best that is in them. We must also ask for God's help to right the wrongs that have resulted when our worst selves have had the upper hand.

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **Shooting victims** At least 159 this Thanksgiving week have been injured or died.
- **Those for whom holidays bring pain not peace or joy.**
- **Refugees and emigrants in the U.S and elsewhere**

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