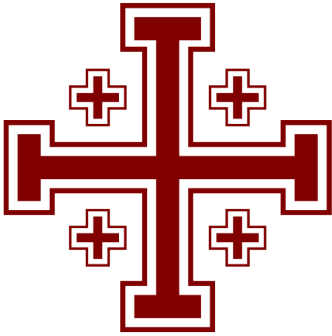


# PASTOR'S CORNER

## NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD



On Thursday, November 24, 2016, our great country, the United States of America, celebrates Thanksgiving Day. This holiday has special religious significance. Thanksgiving Day was originally celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Native Americans to give thanks to God after the harvest of 1621. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November should be a national day of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day has traditionally become a day in which families gather together to share a bounteous meal. I hope that many will gather together as a Holy Name and St. Mary Parish Family and share the meal most important to Catholics, the meal we know as Eucharist. The word "Eucharist" is derived from the Greek word for "thanksgiving." There is no better way for Catholics to give thanks to Almighty God, who is the source of all good gifts, than to gather for the celebration of Mass. The intention of the Mass on Thanksgiving Day will be for the people of the parish as my thanksgiving to God and to you, my faithful parishioners; for all that you do as generous stewards throughout the year for Holy Name and St. Mary Parishes.

Our special Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. The prayers and Scripture selections for the Mass have been especially chosen by the Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy. The orations try to interpret the American understanding of the celebration. The Scripture passages have Biblical allusions to the reasons for our thanksgiving. Our music selections and environment will compliment the theme of thanksgiving.

Individuals and families are invited to bring the bread that will be served at their Thanksgiving Day meal to be blessed. This bread does not have to be homemade. If your bread is store bought, that is ok. If you want to dress it up in a basket with a cloth that is fine. I hope you will consider participating. At the conclusion of the Universal Prayer the bread will be blessed. Please place your bread on the table in the sanctuary before Mass.

As a sign of thanksgiving I invite everyone who comes to Mass on Thanksgiving Day to bring cans of food or other nonperishable food that can be shared with the poor. If you will be out of town on Thanksgiving you could bring your food before you leave for Thanksgiving. We will add the food collected on Thanksgiving Day and the days before to our regular collection of food that we take to the Winfield Food Pantry.

For those who will be unable to participate in our parish Thanksgiving Day Mass I would like to wish all of you a very happy, holy, and blessed Thanksgiving Day. For those who are traveling I offer my special prayers for your safety.