

Thanksgiving Day - 2025

Someone once said, “If ***you don’t have all the things you want, be grateful for all you don’t have that you don’t want.***”

For all Americans, no matter their creed or conviction about all things spiritual, we set aside our “religious differences” today, all discord and disharmony, and refrain from any disagreements we might have about the meaning of the “separation of Church and State.”

Thanksgiving is who we are, or at the very least, who we should be every day of every week of every month of every year. The very term “eucharist” means “thanksgiving.” Our entire lives are intended to be one continuous chorus of gratitude for gifts great and small.

In 1789, President Washington, recollecting the countless blessings for which our new Nation should give thanks, declared the first National Day of Thanksgiving on November 26, 1789.

And decades later, with the Nation embroiled in a bloody civil war, President Abraham Lincoln revived the annual tradition of issuing a Thanksgiving proclamation.

President Lincoln asked God to "heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and Union."

In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving should be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, ironically to encourage holiday shopping, a problem perhaps during the Great Depression, but one we have since overcome with great success.

In 2001, just two months after September 11th, President Bush asked all Americans: 'In thankfulness and humility, to acknowledge, especially now, our dependence on One greater than ourselves.

May Almighty God, who is our refuge and our strength in this time of trouble, watch over our homeland, protect us, and grant us patience, resolve, and wisdom in all that is to come."

The 45th President of the United States gave us these words: "As we gather today with those we hold dear, united together as one people, in gratitude for the freedoms and prosperity that thrive across our land, we acknowledge God as the source of all good gifts.

We ask Him for protection and wisdom and for opportunities this Thanksgiving to share with others some measure of what we have so providentially received."

One of the greatest temptations that we live with every day of our lives in this great and prosperous nation is to lament the things we do not have and to fail to recognize how, in the blink of an eye, all that we have can be washed away.

If only for a day, let us be thankful to God. Let us will what God wills. Let us receive everything as a blessing of God's goodness.

Today, our community of faith gathers as one, in this singular Eucharistic celebration, ready to praise our God from whom all our blessings flow.