



November 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Next week, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. This is a great American holiday that commemorates the time when the Pilgrims, who came over on the Mayflower and settled the Plymouth colony, gave thanks for the bountiful harvest. They were thankful to God, in spite of the hardships and loss of life they experienced in the crossing and in the first year of the colony. I believe that this year, Thanksgiving may be a challenge for us.

This year has been a difficult year as we battle the pandemic. Perhaps we have experienced losses. Perhaps someone close to you has succumbed to the COVID-19 illness or is suffering from its effects. Perhaps you have lost employment or income and are struggling financially. Perhaps you are prevented from gathering with your family, friends, relatives and loved ones this holiday season. Perhaps you are just weary of the loneliness and isolation that has been imposed upon you for many months now. Perhaps you aren't feeling thankful because you are filled with so many other feelings, like worry, anger, anxiety and frustration. I believe it is all the more important for us to stir up in ourselves a real sense of gratitude and offer our thanks to God on Thanksgiving Day and always.

It may be a challenge to find things to be thankful for, but we must try. If we don't, we may easily become overwhelmed by our negative feelings. If you have experienced losses, be thankful for what you still have. If you are isolated at home, give thanks for your home that shelters and protects you. If you can't get together with your loved ones, give thanks for the means of communication that allows you to connect with them from a distance. I think you get the idea. Perhaps the Thanksgiving of 2020 will be a more authentic celebration of giving thanks to God.

I wish all of you most sincerely a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney