

Thanksgiving is this week and even amid Covid-19 there is much to be thankful for in our lives. In spite of what merchants of doom say, we do live in a great country. We are not perfect by any means, but we do have great freedoms which enriches our faith and family life. It does however come at a great cost/sacrifice as we celebrated on Veteran's Day. For those who wish a totally free ride without any sacrifice or service, maybe this isn't the best place to live. But if you wish to help keep us strong, embrace your God given talents and put them at the service of others. It takes time, talent and sacrifice of all to help us grow and prosper.

Please remember to use safe-distancing, mask and regular sanitizing at your Thanksgiving gatherings. We don't need a big surge 7-10 days after the holiday. Even with your family use common sense. We definitely don't need a surge to spread in Holy Family Church or School.

I will be offering mass on **Thanksgiving Day at 9 AM**. This year I will not be doing a blessing of food and drink due to the pandemic, so keep those things at home. It is still a wonderful day to spend time thanking our Lord for his blessings on the USA, our parish and your family.

On Sunday, **Dec. 6th our 10:30 AM** mass we will kick off our 100th year of faith at Holy Family. Gift bags will be given out at that mass for each family to take and use throughout the year, which will conclude on Sunday, September 12th, 2021 with Bishop Duca's closing mass.

On Dec. 9th at 6:30 PM we will have our 1st Reconciliation Service for our children going to confession for the first time. It will also be our Advent Penance Service for the parish. Hopefully many of you will come and prepare the way of the Lord at Christmas by sharing in God's gift of forgiveness. The service will have several priests present for confession. Maybe one gift a parent can give to their children for Christmas is to witness their belief in the Forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This has been a time of great divide and ugliness for our country and church. The recent election shows we remain free but divided as a nation. It is time to acknowledge our differences but to return to the values of our constitution, "one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all". It means sacrifice, service and compromise on all sides without exception. Pray all our leaders will choose to work together and not throw stones of hatred.

Our Catholic faith has taken another hard hit with the 460 page report from Rome into the Cardinal McCarrick investigation. This along with the 2 clergy abuses cases in Archdiocese of New Orleans recently are very disturbing. This behavior cannot be tolerated. We can be angry and leave the church or be inspired to stay and make the Church better. Let's do it as Christ taught, with integrity; living out the values of Love God and neighbor.

As we look forward to Christmas we will have to make some adjustments from the past. If social distancing is still in place **WE HAVE A PROBLEM!** Usually 550+ attend our 4 PM Vigil on the 24th. We can only hold 120-145 with some standing against the back walls. Therefore we plan to have 2 vigil masses: 1 in the church and 1 in the parish hall starting a little after 4

PM. Even with that we still may not have room for 550+. Therefore I am asking our families to plan ahead. If you come at 4 PM, you should come early but we can't allow saving of pews. Second, once the church and parish hall are full we must turn people away, which I will dislike but know it may be necessary. Safety must be a priority as we come to worship.

Our Christmas Day, Dec. 25th masses will be at 8 AM & 10:30 AM just like on Sunday. On Saturday, Dec. 26th & Sunday, Dec. 27th we will celebrate our Holy Family parish feast day. Try to come out for both Christmas & Holy Family if possible, as we will be handing out our 2021 church calendars. Remember to bring your Breaking Bread Prayer song books which we will give out this weekend, **Nov. 21-22nd the feast of Christ the King**. You should bring them to church each week throughout the entire year to help join in our readings, prayers and music.

Peace & prayers,

Fr. David