

KEEPING THE "THANKS" AND "GIVING" IN THANKSGIVING

Today's secular, consumption-driven society has a way of turning things around. Just as our culture does everything possible to take "Christ" out of "Christmas," this week's holiday of "Thanksgiving" has been morphed into a football, parade and overeating extravaganza devoid of the original themes of "Thanks" and "Giving."

The spirituality of stewardship, in which our parish has shown tremendous growth, reminds us that everything we have - our time, talent and treasure - are gifts from God. We "own" nothing. Rather, we have been given temporary care of these gifts from a loving God. It is our challenge, as good stewards and disciples of Jesus Christ, to identify our gifts, to determine how we can concretely share these gifts with others in building the Kingdom of God, and thereby return them enhanced to God with gratitude.

We can best benefit from the "Thanksgiving" holiday by offering our gifts concretely. Some examples for consideration might include: family prayer, attending morning Mass as a family, visiting homebound elderly relatives and friends, contributing in the offertory the money which would otherwise be spent on those excess desserts, and/or volunteering at the Cor Unum Meal Center.

Our Father has told us that He will not be outdone in generosity. With concrete acts of "Thanks" and "Giving" we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. May Saint Patrick Parish continue to receive His graces and blessings.

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