



November 2020

Dear Parishioners and Parish Friends,

Gratitude is one of the greatest spiritual practices. It opens our minds, calms our hearts, and rids bitterness of its power. The “examen” is a spiritual practice to reflect on how we have responded to God’s work in our lives. This Thanksgiving consider your own reason for thankfulness!

What Gifts have you been given from God?

How have I Received love from others?

How is grace at work in Aspects of my life story?

Do I Trust you to continue to bless me?

Where have I missed your movements?

Have I used my Talents at the service of others?

Do I see a purpose for my life Underway?

How can I have Discipline to thank you daily?

Help me give Everything back to you!

I believe that everyone, at some point in life, thinks of oneself to be totally self-sufficient. Self-sufficiency is almost hardwired into our American DNA. We have seen that American independent streak in so many of our successful entrepreneurs of the past. And many of our “self-made” businessmen and women who seem to have accomplished everything all by themselves.

However, upon closer inspection we see that their success has been a collaboration with other people and entities. We never succeed all by ourselves. It takes others to be enormously successful. And those who are successful ultimately say they have so many people to thank for their success.

We too must look at our gifts and say thank you. As we gather around the table on this Thanksgiving Day, let us thank God, who is the giver of all good gifts for the many blessings that we have and share.

Generous and merciful God,

We thank you for your abundant gifts to us.

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving Day,

We ask you to send your Spirit

To open our hearts to you and our neighbor,

That we may share the gifts you have given us

As your Son Jesus taught us to.

Thank you for the many blessings of our lives;

Our family and friends,

Our home and the food we eat,

Our health and employment

We ask your blessing on all who gather with us on this special day

And all your people throughout the world,

Through Christ your Son. Amen.

Happy Thanksgiving
2020