

Here we are, at the end of another busy holiday season. Dollars being calculated by retailers, and couriers breathing a sigh of relief. Gifts have been given, paper torn, boxes opened, and all the presents from friends and family thoroughly enjoyed.

What if the most impactful and unexpected gifts we have given come with no monetary cost? Just our effort to be kind and compassionate people? A way to pay forward what has been freely given to us by the Spirit of God.

A smile to the cashier who has been cashing out impatient shoppers for hours. Or to the wait staff continuing to serve over-tired and over-hungry patrons, just trying to get to the end of their shift with kindness. Or a pleasant nod to the person you held the door for as you waited for them to pass through. Did you spend some time with someone you haven't seen for a while? Did you help at a church dinner to feed the unhoused? The gift of our time is immeasurable. Did you put a few bucks in the red Salvation Army bucket to help feed the food insecure, as the bell ringers try to get your attention? As it has been said, one kind act can change someone's entire day.

As we come to the end of 2024, let us burst into the abundant blessings of 2025, focusing on the gifts that await us. God's gifts. Gifts that are transformative, shaping our hearts, our minds, and guiding our actions. As we share our gifts, seen and unseen, we're called to love. To live with gratitude. To have hope and to lead a life of purpose, while we unceasingly pray for peace. God encourages us to share our blessings with our community and with the world. Let us be forever reminded that with God, all things are possible.

Let Us Pray

Holy Compassionate and Loving Teacher,

Thank You for the blessings of Your abundant gifts that encourage us to be mindful of others.

Thank You for Your patience as we learn to live in those gifts, knowing they will draw us closer to You.

May we receive Your grace and forgiveness when we don't get it quite right.

We await divine intervention to reveal our untapped gifts, driven by our faith.

May Your hope and peace reign down and permeate the world.

Let us sing praises to Your name as we ring in the new year.

We Pray This in The Name of All That Is Holy, Amen

Happy New Year Everyone! Spread the blessings of God wherever you go!

Rev. Tracey Griffing

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