

Dear Parish Family-

Happy Thanksgiving!! Or should I say 'Happy Covid-19 Thanksgiving'?? Either way we have a lot to be thankful for regardless of the present state of affairs. Where else in the world is there a peaceful transition of power regardless of who is elected? We live in a prosperous country which is the envy of the world, the number of people trying to immigrate here proves that point! Greet this unusual Thanksgiving Day with full and thankful hearts!

Thank you to all those who provided either a Thanksgiving Dinner or a gift card for our Thanksgiving Day Turkey Drive, while it was scaled down this year we still provided 182 complete dinners to needy Jackson residents. Every family that requested a dinner was given one! In addition we received checks totaling \$4,857 and gift cards in the amount of \$2,695. We had 134 donor families who gave complete dinners, 51 who provided checks and 37 gift card donors, for a total number of donors of 222! I would like to thank Jim Guldner for once again coordinating this ministry under very difficult circumstances and the Knights of Columbus for their assistance.

The Adopt-A-Family ministry for Christmas is ongoing, so far 100 families have been matched and there are more families awaiting a match. If you would like to participate but are concerned about shopping consider giving a gift card to a local store.

We were not able to have a 'Giving Tree' this year due to the Covid-19 protocols however we have been directing donors directly to Catholic Charities Providence House if they wish to give a gift, please call Rachel Johnston at 732-350-8404 or email her at rjohnston@cctrenton.org. A list of items can be found in our online bulletin or website. The gifts can be dropped off at the Outreach Office located at 88 Schoolhouse Road, Suite 1 Whiting NJ 08759 between 9am-4pm Mon. thru Friday. As a reminder all gifts must be unwrapped and **NEW. Please no gifts can be received here at the St. Aloysius Church or the Parish Office.**

I'll leave you with a simple table prayer for Thanksgiving:

The Servant of God Dorothy Day once wrote that "in this month of Thanksgiving, we can be thankful for the trials of the past, the blessings of the present and be heartily ready at the same time to embrace with joy any troubles the future may bring us".

St. Paul tells us: "Christ's peace must reign in your hearts...dedicate yourselves to thankfulness"

Our response to the grace is: Lord, we thank you.

For the Love of God, for our Faith, and for the Church; We thank you!

For our family, friends, and for those who love us; We thank you!

For our country, freedom and for peace; We thank you!

For home, our jobs, and our well-being; We thank you!

For our teachers, leaders and protectors; We thank you!

For health, safety, work and rest; We thank you!

For tenderness, understanding and encouragement; We thank you!

For our joys, achievements and second chances; We thank you!

For our struggles, sorrows, challenges and sufferings; We thank you!

For the gift of mercy, compassion and forgiveness; We thank you!
For the ability to say "I am sorry" and to live in hope; We thank you!
For the people who have hurt us; We thank you!
For the opportunity to bear one another's burdens; We thank you!
For the rejection we have received and for what humbles us: We thank you!
For courage, authenticity and obedience; We thank you!
For creating us to be amazing; We thank you!
For the ways we have grown and changed; We thank you!
For the grace to be grateful; We thank you!
For the gift of life; We thank you!
For God's blessings on this Thanksgiving Day meal; We thank you!

Loving Father, in a special way this day we thank you for your countless blessings. Your love fills our soul as with a banquet. There is nothing we have that we have not received from you. Help us to make the world a place in which no one suffers alone. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Happy Thanksgiving to you!

Peace and Good – Fr. Bambrick