

Thanksgiving Day

November 25, 2010
St. Margaret Parish, Bel Air

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

This morning, I want to do something a bit different. This year I want to give a meditative homily for this Thanksgiving Day. I want to guide us in a reflective prayer, a meditation of thanks to God. And so, I ask us to relax and sit up straight. Let's close our eyes if we want, but no snoozing or snoring allowed! Quietly, silently, let's be aware of God and God's presence. Let's be aware of ourselves resting with God and at peace with God.

Saint Paul begins today's second reading in this way: *"We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers."*

Creator God, we cannot thank you enough. No matter how often we pray or how expressive our words are, we can never match in our prayer what you have done for us. We thank you, dear God, for the world around us – for things great, like the oceans and mountains, and for things small, like pumpkins and turkeys. We thank you for human life – for babies and children, for teens and young adults, for older adults and seniors, and for persons of every color and culture.

Paul continues: *"We unceasingly call to mind before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope."* We thank you, gracious God, for the faith that gives us meaning and purpose and direction. We thank you for the hope that empowers us to keep on the journey. We thank you, almighty One, for the love that grounds us in you and binds us to one another. We thank you for your divine presence even when we may not feel it.

Again, Saint Paul says: *"We know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, how you were chosen."* We thank you, loving God, for the blessings of my self, the person who I am – for calling, creating and choosing me into this world. We thank you for protecting me from unknown dangers and for not protecting me when a challenge is needed. We thank you, God, for salvation – for the mystery of your infinite love and for opening up to us an eternity of life. We thank you for family and friends and relationships – for mutual understanding and shared burdens, for secrets kept in love and sorrows shared in silence.

Paul goes on: *“Our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power.”* We thank you, almighty God, for the power of miracles – for the mysterious ways our pains can be transformed into gains. We thank you for the life that springs up unexpectedly each day. We thank you, God, for those enlightening bursts of insight and inspiration. We thank you for your eternal wisdom that guides our minds and softens our hearts.

And finally, Saint Paul states: *“Our gospel came to you in the Holy Spirit, with much conviction.”* We thank you, dear God, for Jesus Christ – the One who is your Son and our brother. We thank you for him who lived and died and lives again and in whom we have the hope of seeing you. We thank you, God, for the Holy Spirit – for the energy, courage, peace and comfort of your Spirit. And we thank you for giving us each day so that we in return can give you praise and thanks now and forever. Amen!