



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

NOVEMBER 2024

Sir Knights,

November marks the beginning of the holiday season. We have a tendency to link Thanksgiving with Christmas. The big sales begin the day after Thanksgiving. In many cases they begin on Thanksgiving night. Many people will start putting up their Christmas trees and decorations right after Thanksgiving. We even see people's attitudes becoming a little more gracious during this time of year.

The fact that the holiday season begins with a time of thanksgiving should come as no surprise. We should always be thankful to God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us. But setting aside a special time to give thanks as a nation is significant.

Of course, the holidays can be difficult for some, especially for those who have faced losses or problems. In those situations, the thanksgiving season can be a paradox. But that should come as no surprise either. After all, the Thanksgiving that took place in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621 was a paradox as well. At that time, about half of the 102 people who traveled from England to America had died over that first summer, yet that fall, about 50 pilgrims and 90 Native Americans chose to give thanks.

Choosing to give thanks to God is a conscious choice for us to make. Psalm 100:1-5 tells us, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

For all that Thanksgiving brings with it, there is one fact that remains unchanged year in and year out: God's goodness. The Greek word for goodness is 'agathosune'. It describes an active goodness. God seeks to do good things because it is in his very nature to do so. He wants to bless us, embrace us, and care for us. He longs to show his goodness to us.

Thankfulness is a choice and gratitude is an attitude. And we have the opportunity to make those decisions every day. No matter what our circumstances are, we have a lot to be thankful for. And our personalities will become more appealing when we accurately reflect God's goodness with our lives. When we have an attitude of thankfulness, we become grateful people, and that helps us to point people to Jesus, giving us the desire to serve others as thankful people wishing to be joyful builders of what God has in store for others.

This Thanksgiving, as you celebrate with family, friends, food and festivities, don't forget to take time to treasure God's goodness to you.

Always and All Ways in Christ

Rick Saunders

Grand Prelate