

Dear Padre,

Why is a US secular holiday like Thanksgiving on the Church's liturgical calendar?

Since November 1969, the Proper Calendar offers a Thanksgiving Day Mass for US dioceses. While it also includes Independence Day, no suggestion is made for other civic holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.). Instead, the Roman Missal provides “Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions” that are suited to these observances (Ordo #5, GIRM 368–378). In the United States, November is associated with giving thanks to God. In 1623—three years after the Pilgrims sailed to this land on the Mayflower—a severe drought threatened their crops. Consequently, a day of prayer was observed, an abundant rain saved the harvest, and a Day of Thanksgiving was established. In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation for “Thanksgiving and Praise to Our Beneficent Father” on the last Thursday of November (later moved to the fourth Thursday). However, thanking God isn’t just a one-day event; it’s meant to be a perennial practice.

Recall the lesson of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one of whom returned to thank him. (See Luke 17:11–19.) People who don’t take their blessings for granted return thanks to God in prayer. Therefore, offer brief prayers of gratitude to God throughout the day, for such gifts as your health and faith, the freedoms allowed in this country, “thy daily bread,” and the Eucharist—a word that means “thanksgiving.” “Become what you pray”—a grateful disciple of our Lord! ● Fr. Byron Miller, CS sR / DearPadre.org



1st Reading Sir 50:22–24

And now, bless the God of all, who has done wonders on earth; Who fosters growth from the womb, fashioning it according to his will! May he grant you a wise heart and abide with you in peace; May his goodness toward Simeon last forever; may he fulfill for him the covenant with Phinehas So that it may not be abrogated for him or his descendants while the heavens last.

Responsorial Psalm:

Blessed be the name of the Lord for _ev__er

2nd Reading Cor 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus, God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: Lk 17:11–19

Then he said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



1. MUSHROOM
2. ROWAN
3. PUMPKIN
4. ACORN
5. APPLE
6. TURKEY
7. HAT
8. PEAR
9. PIE
10. CORN
11. HONEY
12. GRAPE

