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**We are gathered here as Your family, Oh Lord. As a family of faith and love, we give You thanks.**

**As Your guests at the table of life, we are grateful that You have set a place for us.**

**As Your children, we strive to follow You in all we do.**

**As servants to Your will, we acknowledge the gift of Your understanding and mercy.**

**As your stewards, we are filled with wonder in the presence of Your mighty deeds and accept our responsibilities in Your service.**

**As Your heirs, we are humbled by the bounty You have given us, for each beat of Your heart and each breath that we draw, is ours only through Your grace.**

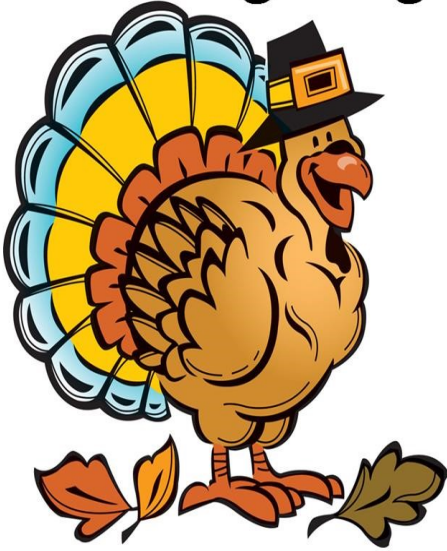
**And, as Your family, we shout Your name and give You all glory and honor, praise and thanks. Amen.**

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs  
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# **Happy Thanksgiving**



**May your  
stuffing be  
tasty  
May your  
turkey be  
plump,  
May your pota-  
toes and gravy  
Have never a  
lump.**

**May your yams be delicious  
And your pies take the prize,  
And may your Thanksgiving dinner  
Stay off your thighs!**

**Author unknown**





## Pastor's Message

Although it was President Lincoln, in the midst of the Civil War in 1863, who declared that a national Thanksgiving Day was to be held each November, it had already reflected a custom that in English colonial history had gone back to 1621 when the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians celebrated the first good harvest in Massachusetts Bay Colony, and perhaps, the first real Thanksgiving Day in North America that took place in the Spanish Colony of St. Augustine in 1565, when the Spanish colonizers met and shared a festive meal with the native Timucuan people in Florida. Regardless of who had the first Thanksgiving Dinner, it was a custom in the new colonies and states that some fall festival be celebrated to thank God for the blessings of the harvest.

Today we renew the custom in a time perhaps as challenging as that of Lincoln, or the first English settlers or the Spanish colonizers. And we do it with a faith in God's goodness to us and with the hope that we will always be able to sit around the family table, take and share the bounty available, and as a nation especially to come together to work on peace.

As we Catholics of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs celebrate "Eucharist" (Thanksgiving) around the Lord's Table, let us share bounty and joy as God intends us to do with family and friends, and then extend that kindness with others as we go from this table to our daily table of sharing.

We hope and pray that your gathering on Thanksgiving will produce the peace and joy of family love.

Happy Thanksgiving, Fr. Joe, Fr. Timothy & Fr. Stan



## Thanksgiving Blessings



Start



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Finish



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