

IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Thanksgiving Lady



Thanksgiving might not be celebrated in the United States today, were it not for a patient, persistent woman named Sarah Hale. It is well known that the first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1621 to give thanks for their winter in the New World.

In 1789, President Washington issued a Thanksgiving Day Proclamation to commemorate the first Pilgrim celebration. But Thomas Jefferson, the third president, discontinued it, calling Thanksgiving, "a kingly practice."

Then in 1828, Mrs. Hale, author of *Mary Had A Little Lamb*, began campaigning for the restoration of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. She wrote letters and sought appointments with national leaders from the President down. Time after time she was politely rebuffed, sometimes being told it was impossible and impractical, and sometimes being dismissed with a this-is-none-of-your-business scolding.

Finally in 1863 President Lincoln listened seriously to her plea that North and South lay aside enmities and strife on Thanksgiving Day. He proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November to be the official National Thanksgiving Day. This day was finally ratified by the United States Congress in 1941.

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"Apple Seeds"
Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.



Publication disruption as I traveled to London during the last week of September and the first week of October. Blighty was lovely!

Veteran's Day—November 11

Originally this day was set aside to commemorate the end of the fighting of World War I. In 1954 President Eisenhower expanded this day to honor all those who have fought in our country's wars.

Say a prayer for those who gave their life for our country. Our gratitude can best be shown by doing what we can to ensure that there will be no more war. Resolve to examine how you handle conflicts in the family, at work, with peers. Do you resort to force or violence? Is it time to learn some additional conflict resolution skills? Only by creating a win-win situation can all be satisfied and peace achieved.



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A Family Perspective

November 3, 2024

31st Sunday (Mark 12: 28b-34)

In a family children are taught to be respectful if they want to be respected, to share, if they want their fair share and to listen if they want to be heard. Family life rescues us from arrogance by teaching us to love others as we love ourselves.

November 10, 2024

32nd Sunday (Mark 12:38-44)

The widow in today's gospel gave only a little, but it counted for a lot. In our homes there are many LITTLE MOMENTS which can have great significance and glue the family together. Seize the moments.

November 17, 2024

33rd Sunday (Mark 13:24-32)

Today's gospel teaches us UNCERTAINTY is normal. There are some things in life which "no one knows ... only the Father." Marriage and parenting are full of uncertainty for like the fig tree in the gospel, the people we love grow and change.

November 24, 2024

Christ the King (John 18:33b-37)

When we are young, our parents "tell us about Jesus" and we believe what our parents believe. At some point we must leave our parents faith and ask Pilate's question: "Are you the King?" Pilate is just asking these questions on our behalf.

November 28, 2024 Thanksgiving

As you prepare for Thanksgiving, look back on this year to all the moments God visited your family in unexpected blessings, or disasters avoided, or kindness and compassion received. Realize and give thanks for "The Lord is with you."

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A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar



All Saints Day—November 1

One definition of a saint is a person who makes it easier for others to believe in God. We all know people who through their goodness show us a little of what God is like. Some of these people are the famous saints which appear on the Church calendar, most are ordinary people who never achieve fame but are holy too.

Who are the ordinary people you respect and admire? Then look at your own goodness—there is a little bit of saint growing in you.

The saints in heaven and those on earth are all a part of our "family." All Saints' Day is the Church's celebration of our ancestors in faith from all over the world throughout the ages. Parents might tell their children stories about saintly ancestors from their family on this great feast. Search for the quality that your family has that is saintly. Share with one another the quality for which you would like to be remembered.

Play a "guess who I am" game. One person gives clues about a particular saint while the others guess. Include some saints from your own family too.

All Souls Day—November 2

Today the Church remembers all those who have died. Each of us are visitors for a short time on this earth through the gracious gift of life from God, our Father. We choose neither our birth nor our death. As children of God then, we are all connected to one another, to those we know as well as to those who names and life stories remain unknown to us. In life and in death we belong to the Lord.

At home, read a list of all those you knew who died during the past year. Many parishes read a list of the dead in the parish on this feast day. Throughout the month, pray for your friends and loved ones who have died. You might display their pictures in your home.

Visit a cemetery and talk about the Christian belief in eternal life. Read Romans 6:3-8.

Excerpted from "Ordinary Times: Pentecost to Thanksgiving: Rituals and Traditions for Families"
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