



SAINT ANTHONY of PADUA
Catholic Community

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Day

THANKSGIVING DAY may be observed with a special Mass at Catholic churches throughout the United States of America. The day is a secular holiday with strong religious roots. This day implies that there is a God, that God is provident, that we recognize what God has done, that we can address God about our blessings, and that the best thing we can say is "Thanks."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops includes this day on the liturgical calendar for the country as an optional memorial. Parishes are therefore not obliged to observe it. They may celebrate whatever weekday Mass would otherwise fall on that day this year. But most parishes choose to make this a special Mass of Thanksgiving. If anyone knows how to give thanks to God, the Church should know how to do it best. The very word *Eucharist* means "thanksgiving." There is no more fitting way to celebrate this feast than to join in prayer at the table of the Lord.

The Roman Missal offers a set of prayers that the priest may use for a Thanksgiving Day Mass, including a special Preface to open the Eucharistic Prayer. Readings may be taken from the lectionary's Mass "In Thanksgiving to God." There are several choices here, so the readings you hear may change from year to year.

Some churches observe other customs. There may be a food collection at Mass so that those who have trouble paying for groceries will benefit from the generosity of the faithful. Or parishes might invite you to bring some of the food you will eat at your own table this day. In that case, you may hear the Blessing of Food on Thanksgiving Day from the *Book of Blessings*.

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Written by Paul Turner.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY: Our next time together for Fellowship will be **THIS Sunday, November 19th!** NOTE THE DATE CHANGE. Due to the last Sunday also being Thanksgiving Day weekend, we are moving up fellowship by one week. If you'd like to provide some snacks or a drink to share, reach out to:

Tina (tinamarie2044@gmail.com)

Ann (AGawalt@mac.com)

Polly (pdredge@gmail.com)

ADVENT RESOURCES! In keeping with parish tradition, ***Advent Calendars*** as well as new copies of "***At Home with the Word***" will be distributed to all families beginning November 26th and will be available while supplies last. The first Sunday in Advent is December 3, 2023. As you already know, the first Sunday in Advent begins a new liturgical year. Happy New Year! 😊

LECTOR RESOURCES AVAILABLE: With the new liturgical year approaching, the newest edition of the ***Workbook for Readers*** is now available to all those on the reading rotation for mass. This helpful book will put the Sunday readings in your hands along with a pronunciation guide and important background to help you in your ministry of the Word. Get yours from Fr. Jason or Fr. Julian!

BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD: Lasting until Advent, we will have on display the **Book of the Names of the Dead** where you are able to inscribe the names of loved ones who have died. At each mass we will remember their memory during the intercessions. Feel free to write names before or after mass as the book will remain open and on display in church.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION: Our next Faith Formation Day will be Sunday, December 3rd.