

A time to treasure all that is right

In 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed a national day of prayer and Thanksgiving despite the Civil War that ravaged our nation. "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God," he said.

It was Lincoln's hope that this day of prayer and remembering God's bounty would be an annual event; indeed, in 1941, President Roosevelt signed a bill establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

Lincoln's words are still relevant, a reminder that we must ever turn to God for help, and to say thanks for all the good that is in our lives.

At this Thanksgiving time, we



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

thank God for our loved ones, family and friends, the people who enrich our lives and make all that we do daily have purpose and mission. We thank God for the gatherings we will all enjoy and the bounty that will adorn our tables, even as we pray for those across the sea in our military who will be absent from us and facing danger; for the homeless

and struggling families who will have no feasts; for the families who have lost a dear one this year and whose hearts will feel a longing no feast can fill.

This is a time of great challenge for us, in our own community, our nation and world. Our society is filled with tragic, escalating violence and disregard for any consistent life ethic; our economy continues to struggle and many face the holidays unemployed; our society can seem fragmented into factions of self-interest; our institutions struggle to offer hope and stability.

It would be easy for us to settle into disenchantment and hopelessness, to be overwhelmed.

That is exactly why Thanksgiving Day — a holiday shared by Americans regardless of the name they give God — is so important. It is a day we can step back, surrounded by those in whom we ground ourselves, and count not all that is

wrong, but all that is right.

So take time on Thanksgiving, especially, to count your blessings, and do not forget God.

Thank God for the good people and good things in your life and world, a great bounty you will see if you only look and think. Realize, too, that you are being counted as a blessing in someone else's life, and gain spirit and happiness from that knowledge. Ask God to help you live up to the loving, caring image held by those who count on you when they remember you in their prayers.

See all this good for what it is: a great tool God has given you to find the hope and confidence to fix those broken things that you can fix in your life, family and community. And know that God always is working on the rest.

May God continue to bless you, and may your Thanksgiving time be filled with peace.

Peace to all.



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CORRECTION

Father Vincent Panepinto, pastor of Rochester's Corpus Christi Church, was incorrectly identified in the caption for a photo on page 12 of the Nov. 20 edition. We regret the error.

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Sun., Nov.
Psalms 25:4
Thessalonian
21:25-28, 34

Mon., Dec
Psalms 122:1

Tue., Dec.
Psalms 72:7
10:21-24

Wed., Dec.
Psalms 23:1-6

Thu., Dec
Psalms 118:1
Matthew 7:21

Fri., Dec.
Psalms 27:1,
9:27-31

Sat., Dec.
23-26; Psalms
9:35-10:1, 5A