



*Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD, and let your faithful ones bless you.
PS 145:2-11*

November 23, 2021

Dear Parishioner,

As the leaves turn golden, the days grow shorter and the temperature begins to drop, my mind turns to fond memories of Thanksgiving. It is not just the change of seasons but a change of heart, a change of perspective if you will. As the year winds down, I begin to reflect on just how blessed I am to be the spiritual leader of this faith community. Small things matter more: a beautiful rainstorm, a laugh shared with a stranger, an impromptu hug, the joy of calling a family who needed to hear from me. These are the things that connect me most with the world around me. It gives me a sense of purpose and a feeling of peace because I know God is in control. Having you and your family as part of my ministry at this parish adds to this feeling of well-being.

As we gather at the table to celebrate our blessings this Thanksgiving, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for being part of our parish - especially during the pandemic and the transition from one pastor to another. I want to thank you for welcoming me to your community and for all you have done to make St. John Neumann a place where all are able to experience the love of Jesus Christ, to participate in the sacraments, to grow in faith, and serve those in need.

In closing, please know that I am praying for you, and it is my hope, that you do the same for me and your fellow parishioners. We have all been through a lot the past 2 years – many have experienced unfathomable loss and even greater despair yet all around me I have also seen amazing graces displayed and shared. It reminds me God wastes nothing.

As Advent begins, I want to remind you to share in the hope, joy, peace, and love that it brings and enjoy the waiting for the son who is the source of all mercy for us. I would also ask that you remember in your prayers and actions those in our community and beyond who may find the holidays challenging, especially this year. Love them as God has loved you.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Dean Wilhelm
Pastor