

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Oliwni    Grazias    Merci    Tanke    Danke    Maha-  
lo        Grazie    Dziękuję    Obrigado    Diolch yn fawr  
Dankoo    Hvala        Go raibh maith agat        Danko

There are many ways to say “Thank you”.

Thanksgiving Day has its origins in September 1620, when the Mayflower sailed from Britain with 102 souls on board, seeking to form a colony where they could freely practice religion. They were Separatists, separating themselves from the Church of England. Having arrived on these shores, one year later 46 of them had survived; with an abundant harvest, they invited 91 Native Americans to join them in a celebration of Thanksgiving.

President Lincoln drafted the first Thanksgiving Day proclamation while the Nation was in the midst of a bitter and bloody Civil War. Lincoln envisioned the day as a day of prayer in thanks to God for His blessings on the country and prayer for an end to that bloody struggle.

A recent survey of airline attendants said that on an average flight an attendant will say ‘thank you’ several hundred times to the passengers on board. The survey also said that many passengers do not reciprocate. A simple ‘thank you’ from a passenger goes a long way, the airline crews said.

On Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup> we are invited to give thanks, and we can do so, as the Psalm says “At all times”; our giving thanks can be found in the most unexpected of places.

We can be thankful for the mess to clean up after the dinner because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

We can be thankful that there is yard work to do and leaves and fallen branches to clean up, because it means I have two arms.

We can be thankful for the heating bill, because it means I am warm.

We can be thankful for all the complaining about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.

We can be thankful for the parking space at the rear end of the lot, because it means I am able to walk.

We can be thankful for homework, because it means I have a school to go to.

We can be thankful for..... What will you give thanks for on this Thanksgiving Day?

Why not join us on Thanksgiving morning, and participate in the Liturgy where the greatest of all Thanksgiving is made: the Eucharist, in which we can join with Jesus Christ in giving thanks to the Father.