

Fr. Martin's Reflection – November 23, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thanksgiving

May you and all your family and friends have a wonderful, joyful Thanksgiving, filled with wonderful, happy memories. With all the challenges and difficulties life throws at us, we need a day like Thanksgiving. This is an opportunity to stop and take stock, to look around and see all the people in our lives that make us happy, safe, fulfilled, and appreciated. Sometimes those closest to us, those who mean the most to us, can often be taken for granted or we presume they know how we feel about them, why would they think otherwise? To show appreciation, or to be thankful towards family or friends is as much of a benefit to oneself as it is to the other person. To take the time to think about who it is I appreciate, who it is that makes my life meaningful, who it is I love, is to realize you are loved by them, you are a loved person. If we can believe people love us, then we can be very sure God loves us, who possess the greatest love of all. A love that renews, refreshes, and completely consumes us. To have so much love from family, friends, and God, is something for which to be truly thankful, so let us share that love with everyone we meet.

I am also conscious that Thanksgiving can be a very difficult time for people. A lot can happen in a year—loss of one's job, break-up of a relationship, the passing of a loved one, or simply holidays are so much trouble. So, what should one do? Breathe, simply breathe and realize you are alive, and because you are alive you can set about making changes that will make life better for you. Simple changes, small changes, manageable changes, changes that will make a difference. But it is also important to know that you are not alone in making these changes. If help is needed, help is here. God provides us with everything we need to achieve full, productive lives. One of our greatest challenges is letting others help us. In not seeking help or allowing others to help us is what often traps us in our own isolation. Christ said to us, **"I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly."** Jn 10:10. Christ desires that we have a full, happy, and love-filled life. Where you feel you are now is real, but if it's not where you want to be, turn to Christ, and seek his strength and guidance to help you get to where it is you want to be. Now believe and breathe!

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness at night. For you have made me glad, O Lord, in all you have done, and I sing for joy at the works of your hands. Ps 92:1-2, 4

May you have a wonderful, grateful and love filled Thanksgiving.

Feast of Christ, the Universal Savior

Dear Friends, we have come to the end of another liturgical year, and next weekend we begin our journey through Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. So, how was last year? Did you achieve the goals you set for yourself? Did you do something new, learn something new, meet someone new, or join something new? Did we answer yes to some or all the above, well done you! If no, then the wonderful thing about God is that God continually gives us the opportunity to begin anew again. Let us not waste the opportunity to keep trying to grow, change, learn, and grow closer to God. What are you going to do personally, what are you going to do as a family, what new year resolution are you going to make that will not make you richer, but get you closer to God whose blessings truly makes us rich.

God's love and blessings always

Fr. Martin