

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 26, 1952

-----

Thanksgiving Day Schedule.

Tomorrow is a holiday; that means late rising, and late breakfast as on Sunday morning. It isn't a Holy Day of Obligation. But that is all the more reason for your wanting to offer this gesture of gratitude to God -- freely, and of your own accord -- for all the good things He has bestowed upon you during this present year.

Mass In All Hall Chapels.

There will be Mass in all hall chapels -- instead of Sacred Heart Church. The hour will be posted by your rector. Make it a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Out Of New England....

came this particular celebration. According to colonial legends, the early settlers gathered in the first harvest; then paused to thank the Giver of all good gifts. The genuine spirit of this day, obviously had a religious significance. This much is to the credit of the founding fathers. They had known days of suffering, danger, and want. Prayers of thanksgiving came easily to their lips.

It is true that the Puritans were a sad group, shying away from laughter and enjoyment of the harmless things in life, looking askance at the very idea of merrymaking in any form. Taking their cue from the Roundheads, they were more than slightly intolerant of anything Catholic. They abhorred papist trappings in any guise. They forbade the celebration of Christmas in the early years. They even outlawed mince pie. They ignored all the festive traditions and customs of their homeland that once was called "Merrie England." But they were victims of their Calvinistic environment which robbed them of their sense of beauty, and laughter.

Yet they did not forget God; they were not pagans -- as so many of our people in this nation are today. Thanksgiving Day had a real meaning for them.

The Holy Father Approves

On November 27, 1949, Pope Pius XII told a group of American Congressmen it was his ardent wish that all nations might follow the custom of America in observing an annual Thanksgiving Day:

"Once again, Honorable Sirs, the legislative and executive halls of your capital have heard, in the days just past, the noble accents of a nation's prayer of thanksgiving to the living God. Need We tell you that Our heart is touched and comforted by this recurring evidence of your awareness -- and would that it were universal -- of one of the very first charges linked to the mission of responsible statesmanship?"

Late Facilities on Thanksgiving Day

Late facilities for Confession and Communion will be available in Dillon, Cavanaugh, and Howard Halls until 9:30 a.m.