

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Count Your Blessings

Each year -- since 1870 as an annual custom -- our Chief Executive calls upon the people of the nation to observe a special day of thanksgiving to God for all His favors and blessings. It's a laudable practice; and a good indication that we are still, ostensibly, a Christian nation at heart.

Possibly the most spiritual of these annual proclamations was the one voiced by our first president when he called for "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God." Then Washington exhorted the people "to beseech God to pardon our national and other transgressions, to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."

During the years of depression, Thanksgiving Day proclamations seemed to some to be a pretty piece of irony. People with short vision looked down their long noses at the immediate temporal problems, and thought there was nothing to be grateful for. Yet, even in those worst years of unemployment, a glance about the world reminded us that we might well be grateful for our freedom of conscience, of the press, of speech, or opportunity that we still possessed.

In recent years, our measure of temporal prosperity has been very pronounced in most instances. If your fathers were not enjoying a measure of success, you wouldn't be here at Notre Dame. Many of you have parents who are making sacrifices to send you to this school. Many others of you have homes that do not feel such a strain. We should all be grateful to God, the Giver of all good gifts, from Whom all blessings flow. And we should show gratitude in some external way.

And while there is nothing wrong with repairing to stadia for football games, and to other places of amusement during the day, we should also repair to churches and places of worship. There's nothing wrong with making this Thursday "Turkey Day" so long as we also take a little time to drop in at the Church for Mass -- a Mass of Thanksgiving, and for the reception of Communion. After all, the Eucharist means giving thanks. Furthermore, this thanks ought to be given in a public manner. As members of society, we should come together publicly to thank God.

Mass In Sacred Heart Church at 8:30 Only

Accordingly, at Notre Dame, this Thursday will be something more than merely another "free day." There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving, wherein we shall come together to thank God in a public manner. It will be a reminder to us of God, and of our dependence on His Providence. You should welcome the opportunity to worship together as members of society, and give public evidence of your gratitude. There will be no evening Mass at 5:10 on this day, nor on Friday. There will be no hall chapel facilities for those who remain on campus on this day.

Friday and Saturday mornings: Confessions and Communion until 9:30 a.m. in Dillon.

Friday evening: Sorrowful Mother Novena in private only.

Only 30% of the student body plans to remain on campus for the long week-end. That means most of you will be on the road. Play it safe -- hit the box tonight!

PRAYERS - Deceased: uncle of Jim Dohrenwend (O-S); grandfather of Don Veckerelli of Breen-Phillips; John T. Fogarty, '23. Ill: father of Mike McGovern of Stanford.