



Digital Missouri Message

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Happy Thanksgiving!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the Sir Knights and friends who have contributed to the Holy Land Pilgrimage operating fund. We have sold more than a hundred coins thus far. The success of this program has necessitated an order for a second batch of coins, and we are well into that batch already! So, thank you again for your generosity and efforts in supporting this worthy program.

With the progress of the coin sales well underway, it becomes time to identify eligible candidate Ministers for next year's Holy Land Pilgrimage trip, getting their application forms completed, and submitted to the Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee for consideration. I am reaching out to you for help identifying Ministers who would be interested in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The trip is physically demanding and requires a lot of walking on loose footing. We are not limited to candidates within our organization. Your local religious leader may qualify despite not being a member of the Masonic fraternity. Don't overlook them. This may also prove to be an opportunity to raise awareness of what we do in the community at large.

The Four Chaplains represent sacrifice for their fellow man. Lets honor them by honoring the Chaplains who help us! Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you out there!

Dei Gratia - By the Grace of God!

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Commander

HOSPITALLER COMMITTEE THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights and Happy Thanksgiving!

It is that time of year again. The leaves are changing colors, the temperatures are dropping, and we have been visited by all kinds of ghosts and goblins who decimated our candy supplies. Now we begin to plan for the annual feast. How many family and friends will attend? Are we serving turkey, ham, or both? Decisions, decisions, decisions.

Actually, as Christian Knight Masons, the only real decision should be how we can give thanks to our Lord for another year. How we can thank Him for all the tender mercies and many blessings He has bestowed upon us? As we are all agog with our holiday plans and looking forward to our shopping trips, how are we planning to give thanks to the One who brought us forth into this world? Are we

making sure that we have set aside time to truly thank Our Lord and Savior for all that He has given us?

History tells us that for Americans, Thanksgiving started with a shared harvest in November of 1621 between the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Native Americans. Grateful peoples shared food and happiness for a good year. Others believe that the first Thanksgiving is the Eucharist shared by Christ during Passover. The debate over when the first Thanksgiving occurred should not even be considered as we should focus on one issue and one issue only. That issue is how we can best praise and glorify Our Lord and Savior during this season of thanksgiving. Let us all unite in thanking Him.

It is our most sincere wish that you and your family will have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. It is also our wish that you continue to offer thanks to Our Lord on that day and every day.

Sir Knight Bobbie E. White and the Hospitaller Committee

THE IDEA OF GIVING THANKS

In the United States we celebrate Thanksgiving Day each year on the 4th Thursday of November. It is a holiday begun by the early settlers to express their gratitude to God for a bountiful harvest. However, it is patterned after the Jewish Feast of the Tabernacles. In the fall, after each year's harvest, Israelites from all over the country would gather in Jerusalem for a week of celebration to commemorate the time God had spent with them in the wilderness and to give thanks for another good harvest.

The Pilgrims of New England, after surviving a very difficult year in the New World, instituted a similar, though much smaller, thanksgiving feast, again with the intent of praising God. In 1863, this event became a national holiday in the United States. However, it was not until 1941 that the 4th Thursday of November was codified as the official date of the observance.

On Thanksgiving day, we should also remember the Eucharist which is Greek for "thanksgiving." In the Holy Eucharist, God gives us His only Son. Jesus gives us His Body and His Blood in Holy Communion. God gives us everything in the Eucharist: divine grace, divine forgiveness, divine life, and divine love. We should, in some way great or small, celebrate the Eucharist each and every day. First and foremost we should give thanks for life itself. Life is precious and all too fleeting. And, life is all about love.

If you're looking for things for which to be thankful, then think about some of these blessings from the "God Without:" Love Without Limits, Forgiveness Without Question, Blessings Without Number, and Mercy Without Measure. May Our Eucharist Lord and Savior grant us the grace of always giving thanks for all that He bestows on us.