

FROM THE PASTOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

In the first chapter of his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul wrote: *"I thank my God in all my remembrance for you, always, in every prayer of mine for you, making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day [we met] until now."* [Phil 1:3-5]

This example of maintaining an attitude of thanksgiving as part of regular life and prayer is an appropriate reminder at this time of year, when our nation observes Thanksgiving Day.

Tracing its origin to a three-day festival in 1621, during which ninety members of the Wampanoag Tribe joined fifty-three English colonists in Plymouth, Massachusetts, the first National Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed in 1789 by our first President, George Washington.

For my part, I offer thanksgiving to be serving as pastor of SLKF. As many of you know, my last pastorate, St. Robert Bellarmine (Arabi, St. Bernard), was taken away by Hurricane Katrina, after which I was assigned to teach Church History at the seminary. Twelve years passed before Archbishop Aymond offered me this opportunity, and all of you have been most gracious and accepting in the four months since the appointment commenced.

Looking forward, the liturgical year ends on the Solemnity of Christ the King, the weekend after Thanksgiving. The church begins a new liturgical year with the first Sunday of Advent, which, this year, is the first weekend of December.

Taking advantage of this time to both reflect and plan, I will be preaching at all masses on the first weekend of Advent, addressing initiatives for 2018. Already, many of your wishes, expressed in the parish survey, have been implemented, as summarized in previous bulletin messages: (CCD Program revived; Adult Education program created; Confirmation program expanded; Confession offered seven-days-a-week; upgraded technology for website/phones/bulletin, etc).

In constructing future endeavors for 2018, additional effort and investment will be required. And so, we will begin with a Prayer Initiative, which I will summarize in the next "From the Pastor", and on which I will elaborate when I preach at the masses to begin the Advent Season.

For now, please accept my gratitude and prayers for a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

St. Louis King of France, Pray for us.