



OUR LADY of
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Matt's Musings

Thanksgiving 2019

Happy Thanksgiving! I am very grateful for your presence at OLG C and the ways you and all of us together strive to Live Jesus each day in prayer, word, and action. I hope you enjoy the day with friends and family. Let us all pause throughout the day to count our blessings and to thank God for all of them.

Last week, I asked you to share with me some thoughts on Thanksgiving this year. I am listing them in this Musing. I did edit out names since I did not ask permission to use names in the group email. Remember, Meister Eckhart wrote in the fourteenth century that if we forget every other prayer we ever learned, but if we remember "Thank you, Lord" ours will be a rich prayer life.

I am grateful for my wife who is also my best friend and for my two very talented children.

Now in my senior years, I see clearly God's love for me is the most precious gift of faith. In hindsight, my eyes are open to realizing all the good things I have are never my own achievement but from HIS hand all the hardship & pain I experienced had all been taken care of in HIS loving way. So all the anxiety, fear, worry I went through were really unwarranted as I couldn't have helped myself.

I am grateful for the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and their constant message of God's love for us and a reminder to love each other.

I am grateful for the kindness and generosity of those I encounter throughout my day- they lift my soul and bring me hope.

We give thanks every Thanksgiving as the family sits around the table together. Each thanks is a little different than the other but in general, they are for those there and those who have passed. With that thought, I am grateful this year for the Remembrance Mass which was very personal for our family since we lost two members within a month of each other. This year I will give thanks for being a member of OLG C which caters to all the needs of its parish and beyond.

I am very thankful for my 3 children. They have helped me remember what is

This year I unexpectedly lost my dear husband. I am so grateful that during those last days, in spite of my terror and sorrow, God gave me the strength and grace to be the person my husband needed me to be at that time, to support and "walk with him" to his end. I am so grateful that God blessed me with the love of this good man for nearly 60 years. Gratitude for the children and the love he gave me.

I am grateful when folks in church turn to a person with a disability and shake their hand for the "Peace be with you." The majority of parishioners just look away. I try to do a hand over hand so others realize they can shake my son's hand; He doesn't have a contagious disease. Just a physical disability.

To wake up each day, knowing my family is alive, healthy and thriving. And we have work and a roof over our heads.

For the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales.

I am grateful for being part of a parish that helps the community, supports each other, helps mold my children In God's image, and has yummy donuts. I am so grateful to be a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel where I began to learn about St. Francis de Sales' spirituality back in 1984. It has changed my life in so many ways! I am grateful for every day and another opportunity to begin anew, knowing I'm so deeply loved by God.

While in Giant tonight, I caught myself mumbling aloud to myself about lists, ingredients, Thanksgiving recipes, amounts, AAAAHHHGG! A kind employee, who must have witnessed this bizarre behavior of mine, walked out from behind the concealment of the milk cooler and asked me if there was anything he could help me find. I thanked him and said no, I did not need any help, and then I asked him if I looked lost? He paused a moment and then said carefully "well, maybe a little bit". I felt the power of God whispering in my ear, saying "Do not worry--you're not alone! You are seen and heard!" In that brief moment, I realized that I am NOT alone and that people DO care about what's happening in my world. I thanked him profusely for his kind attention and he stayed a moment or two longer to chat with me and then we retreated back to our roles as shopper and Giant employee. I felt strangely calm as I finished up my shopping. I want to say how grateful I felt in that moment for his kind attention to me, in my moment of confusion and panic. I hope that I can continue to find gratitude in my heart for the many kind faces of strangers who present themselves to me during this holiday season and that I am able to recognize God when he (or she) is standing right in front of my face. Happy Thanksgiving and Live Jesus!!!

I would say that gratitude is the feeling of being SO thankful for all that has been given to you, but then showing that gratitude in a tangible manner (and without anyone knowing why you are doing what you are doing.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Live Jesus!

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