

**HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**

Polish National Catholic Church  
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SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA

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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

**SOLEMNITY - CHRIST THE KING**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Contemporary Rite.

**OPENING HYMN**

**“TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD OUR GOD”**

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,  
Before Thine altar, Father  
Thou knowest best our yearning hearts.  
This supplication answer.  
Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,  
Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.  
Under Thy cross we stand prepared,  
To serve Thee with devotion.  
Be it with sweat of blood or tears,  
Or humble resignation.  
For we Thy people are, O Lord,  
Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

(Sirach 18:3; Psalm 22:28-29)

- C. The Lord guides the world with a turn of His hand, and all things obey His will. For He is King of all, and by His power He separates what is holy from what is not.
- R. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. All the families of the nations shall bow down before Him. For dominion is the Lord's, and He rules the nations.

- C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
- R. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the Highest,  
And peace to His people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God, and Father  
We worship You; we give You thanks  
We praise you for Your glory  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father  
Lord God, Lamb of God  
You take away the sins of the world  
Have mercy on us  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father  
Receive our prayer  
For you alone are the Holy One  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ  
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory  
Of God the Father. Amen.



**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL  
(Daniel 7:13-14)**

As the visions during the night continued, I saw one like a Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven; when He reached the Ancient One and was presented before Him, the One like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, His kingship shall not be destroyed.

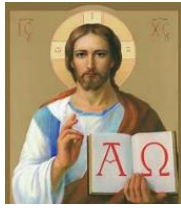
- C. The Word of the Lord.
- R. Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL**

(Psalm 145:10-13)

- C. Let all Your works give You thanks, O Lord, and let Your faithful ones bless You. Let them discourse of the glory of Your kingdom and speak of Your might.

R. Making known to men Your might and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom. Your Kingdom is a kingdom for all ages, and Your dominion endures through all generations.



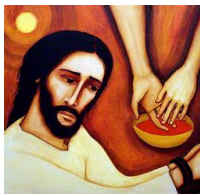
**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION (Revelation 1:5-8)**

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for His God and Father, to Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. All the peoples of the earth will lament over Him. Yes. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, " says the Lord God, "the One who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty."

C. The Word of the Lord.  
R. Thanks be to God.

**ALLELUIA VERSE**  
(Isaiah 43:15)

C. Alleluia, alleluia.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
V. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.



**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN**  
(John 18:33-37) NRSV

C. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.  
C, A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John  
R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about Me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If My kingdom did belong to this world, My attendants would be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My kingdom is not here." So, Pilate said to Him, "Then You are a king?" Jesus answered, "you say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice."

C. The Gospel of the Lord.  
R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
Of all that is seen and unseen.  
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father.  
God from God, Light from Light, True God  
from true God, begotten not made  
Of one being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made  
For us and for our salvation.  
He came down from heaven:  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
He was born of the Virgin Mary  
AND BECAME MAN.  
For our sake, He was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again  
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and  
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
To judge the living and the dead  
And His kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The Lord and Giver of Life  
Who proceeds from the Father,

With the Father and the Son  
He is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in One, Holy, Catholic  
and Apostolic Church  
I acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
I look for the resurrection of the dead  
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



**OFFERTORY VERSE**  
(Revelation 15:3b)

V. Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God almighty. Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

O Lord our God receive these gifts we offer to You today. Grant unity and peace to all nations under the leadership of Christ the King. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

C. Let us Pray. Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

R. Amen.

**COMMUNION VERSE**  
(Psalm 29:10b-11)

V. The Lord reigns as king forever. May the Lord give might to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also, with you.

C. Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we have eaten at the Banquet of Immortality and have been restored to fellowship with You. May we be made strong for Your service and come to reign with Christ the King. We ask this through the same, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



**THE UNIVERSALITY OF CHRIST THE KING**

**“All power is given unto Me, in heaven and on earth.” - Matthew 28:18**

On this Sunday, throughout Christendom, the “One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church” is brought together, as the one Church “through Him and with Him and in Him,” for today we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King.

In 2025, the Nicene Creed will mark its 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its inception in 325 AD as a “proclamation of faith” by the early Church.

From the Western or “Catholic Rite,” to the Eastern or “Orthodox Rite, as well as many Protestant denominations, including the Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, this Sunday, marks the end of the 2024 Liturgical Church year. Throughout this past year, these churches, along with others, have followed a three-year common lectionary plan of readings in proclaiming the “Word of God.”

Next week, we will begin a new cycle of readings, on the First Sunday of Advent, with Cycle “C” of the Common Lectionary. The Common Lectionary was first published in 1983.

The purpose of this three-year cycle of Sunday readings and the two-year cycle of weekday readings, is to expand the readings so that more

Christians will have a greater knowledge of Holy Scripture.

We will begin in this new Liturgical year to retell the story of our faith. We will hear the story of the anticipated and promised “Messiah,” which was spoken of by the early OT spokesmen, the prophets of God, such as Isaiah, Jerimiah, Daniel, Malachi, and others. It should also be noted that this “Messiah” would fulfill the three-prong role of the “Messiah” who would be a “king” the High Priest, and a prophet.

We will again here of the story of Jesus the “Christos,” the Anointed One of God, from His miraculous birth, through His three-year public ministry including His many teachings and healings to His Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. Following Jesus’ Ascension, we will hear of the Pentecost experience, the establishments of the early Christian communities as well as from the letters to the various Christian Churches by Paul and others.



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle**

Andrew the Apostle was born c. 5 to 10 AD in the town of Bethsaida, in Galilee. He was the brother of Simon Peter and was called to be an Apostle of Christ as found in Matthew 10:2 and Luke 6:14.

His name was not Hebrew but rather Greek and it is believed that his family was influenced by Greek thought. In the Gospel of John, Andrew was known as a disciple of John the Baptist. He was also associated with James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were all fishermen. It was Andrew that Jesus called upon at the miracles of the feeding of the five thousand. When the Greeks came to Philip regarding meeting Christ, Philip asked Andrew for his advice. Andrew was present

at the Last Supper and was one of the disciples who came to Jesus on the Mount of Olives to ask about the signs of Jesus' return at the "end of the age."

It is further believed. that Andrew preached the Gospel along the Black Sea as far as Kiev and Russia. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Ukraine, Romania and Russia and Scotland.

It is believed that Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in the city of Patras in Achaea c. 60 AD, and that his cross was shaped in the form of an “X.” It is believed that Andrew asked to be crucified in this manner, feeling unworthy to be crucified in the same way as His Lord.



**THE MEASURE OF ONES FAITH**

In many homes, there is a place where a doorpost is used to measure and record the growth of a child.

St. Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, written c. 57 AD, spoke about another “measurement.” This time it was about a “measurement of faith” by God.

“For by the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you, not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the **measure of faith** that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” - Romans 12:3-8.

As we come to the close of the 2024 Liturgical year in the Christian Church, let us reflect on review in our own spiritual growth.

In the same spirit, Paul wrote the following in his letter to the Ephesians 3:16-19:

"I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love, I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the **breadth and length and height and depth**, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

I recently had a conversation with a dear friend, about the concept of "heaven and hell." I asked him, "where is "heaven"? and as most of us would react, pointed "upward. "And then I asked: "And where is hell?" The response was of course the opposite, pointing downward.

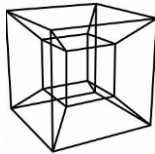
To make things more confusing, we read the words of Jesus who spoke in Luke 17:20b-21:

"The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

The words of Jesus in other biblical translations, is that the "Kingdom of God, is within you."

Whether the "Kingdom of God is "among you" or is "within you," the Lord Jesus taught the "Kingdom of God" is in our midst. This is the faith of every Christian believer, baptized into the faith.

There are some, who say, there is "no God." But there are many others who have met the Lord, as Paul did on a road to Damascus and as disciples of Jesus on the road to Emmaus.



Over the years, there are many who have tried to explain the concept of a "fourth dimension" to those of us who live who live in a "three-dimensional world." This "fourth dimension" has been described as "creating right angles to the three dimensions" or "dimensions that are perpendicular to each other."

I once read, that if we lived in only a two-dimensional world of only "height and width," we could not truly understand the concept of "depth,"

But I believe that Paul spoke about more than of a "three dimensional" world of faith 2000 years ago when he wrote the following to the Ephesians:

"I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the **breadth and length and height and depth**, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

As we watch on our "large screen" TV's and the programming of sports, news, and educational programming as seen on PBS, the History Channel, Nova, etc. we all see this programming in only two dimensions, "height and width," but not 'depth.' There has been for many years, the concept of a "hologram" TVs, where we would eventually see and experience, the height, width and the depth of what we see on screen as in life. Although VR (Virtual Reality) goggles have existed for many years, there are presently no true hologram TV's.

I recently watched a portion of a Ken Burns production of the life and the times of Leonardo Da Vinci and learned that in many of his paintings, Leonardo tried to convey "three dimensions" on his "two dimensional" canvases.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King and the end of the Liturgical year of 2024, all Christians should ask themselves, in retrospect, "have I grown spiritually this past year?" Do I have a better understanding of the **breadth and length and height and depth**, of our faith.? Do we know more clearly of the love that Christ has for each of us that surpasses knowledge, and finally are we more filled with all the fullness of God?"

I hope that each of us have grown a little taller in the "measure" of our faith in wisdom, in knowledge, in understanding that comes to each believer through the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus spoke about in John 14:26: "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you."



## **OUR PARISH CALENDAR**

**November 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 am Liturgy of the Hours

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

- Mon. 11/25 Private Prayer and Devotion**  
Catherine of Alexandria, V & M  
Moses of Rome, Prince & Martyr  
Nikon “Metanoicite,” Monk
- Tue. 11/26 Mass to the Holy Saints of God**  
Peter of Alexandria, Bishop & M  
Sircius  
Conrad of Constance, Bishop
- Wed. 11/27 Mass of Health and Healing**  
James Interciusus, Martyr  
Virgil, Bishop  
Maximus of Riez, Bishop
- Thurs. 11/28 Mass of Thanksgiving**  
**Thanksgiving Day - USA**  
Stephen the Younger – Monk & Martyr  
Simeon Metaphrastes, Writer  
Basil, Doctor & Martyr
- Fri. 11/29 Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus**  
Saturninius, Martyr  
Rahod of Utrecht, Bishop  
Paramon & Martyrs of Bithynia, M.
- Sat. 11/30 Feast – Andrew, Apostle**  
Andrew, Apostle  
Sapor, Issac & Companions, B&M  
Frumentius of Abyssina, Bishop



**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00 am Holy Mass to be celebrated in the Traditional rite of the PNCC with the lighting of the first candle of Advent.

**Note:** General Confession of adults to take place prior to the celebration of Holy Mass.



## **REFLECTIONS**

### **THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER**

What began as a Parish function last Sunday, I believe, displayed a true spirit of Christian charity of our Parish. A couple of weeks ago, one individual, named Michael, who is not even one of our parishioners, not only purchased a ticket to our Thanksgiving Day Dinner, but also gave money to purchase other meal tickets to provide “takeout dinners” for strangers in need.

Mentioning the example of Michael, in Church, other parishioners came forward and gave donations for purchasing “take-out” meals for others less fortunate. In what was to be a delay of only 30 minutes to first accommodate “take out meals” became a delay for those sitting of over an hour. Without any complaints, those who attended our Thanksgiving Dinner at the PACC waited patiently to be served until all takeout meals were filled. Thank you everyone for your patience.

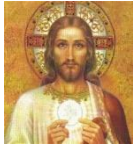
I personally want to thank all the men and women of our Parish, who came forward to help prepare and serve all the food as well as to all who donated desserts for this occasion.



### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

In our prayers, please remember all our brothers and sisters, who are sick and ill, and seek the blessings of God for health and healing.

**Let us pray.** O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illness and grant them recovery in Jesus’ holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



## **ONE BREAD, ONE BODY**

### **Daily Devotions**

Copies of the **“One Bread, One Body,”** a daily devotional booklet is available, free of charge, in the vestibule of our Church. These daily devotions are in tune with the readings as found in the Common Lectionary of the Christian Church.



### **OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS.**

**“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4**



### **Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”**

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”  
- Matthew 25: 35.**

The next date for giving out groceries to those in need will be held on **Saturday, December 21st from 10 am till noon** or while supplies last.

I learned that we gave out 12 turkeys and bags of groceries to aid those in need and I wish again to thank Cheryl Major, Mary and Josh Tudryn in this important ministry. May God bless all our endeavors.



### **SOCKS FOR VETERANS**

This past week, I met with Mr. John Czyz who is involved in the “Soldier On” program, providing clothing, etc. to our local veterans.

Our simple ministry of providing socks to our local veterans is but a small but important part of helping others in need. I wish to thank all who have donated socks as we continue to collect socks for our local veterans.



### **Collecting plastic tops**

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our help in collecting plastic tops that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops in this new ministry.

### **PARISH PROJECTS**

I wanted to announce we completed our “Fall cleanups” of our Parish property and our Parish cemetery. Again, a special thank you goes to Cliff Spatcher for updating our heating systems.



### **EASTERN DIOCESAN MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION**

During the month of November 2024, at noon, may we all pray, that we may all stand strong in our faith and be the ones that God made us to be:

**Let us Pray:** Almighty God, speak to our hearts whenever courage fades. Sustain us with an unyielding trust and steadfast faith, so that we may not be afraid to profess or defend our faith in You. May we stand with the same courage and perseverance of Your holy martyrs as we face the challenges placed before us. Renew us with Your unfailing love and fill us with hope in Your eternal purpose. Enlighten us to look beyond the temporary things of this world to You, the Source of all courage. We ask this through Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father** who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



**Source: History.com**

## **Thanksgiving at Plymouth**

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the "New World."

After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing which lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth, MA.

Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England Spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from a member of the Abenaki tribe who greeted them in English.

Several days later, another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe appeared. He had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also

helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which endured for more than 50 years and remains one of the few examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

## **When Was the First Thanksgiving?**

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the first Thanksgiving's exact menu, much of what we know about what happened at the first Thanksgiving comes from Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow, who wrote:

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods.

Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes, or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of today's celebrations.

### **Origins of Thanksgiving National Holiday**

In Plymouth, Massachusetts, colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast in 1621 that is widely acknowledged to be one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations. But some historians argue that Florida, not Massachusetts, may have been the true site of the first Thanksgiving in North America. In 1565, nearly 60 years before Plymouth, a Spanish fleet came ashore and planted a cross in the sandy beach to christen the new settlement of St. Augustine. To celebrate the arrival, the 800 Spanish settlers shared a festive meal with the native Timucuan people.

The first Thanksgiving meal in Plymouth probably had little in common with today's traditional holiday spread. Although turkeys were indigenous, there's no record of a big, roasted bird at the feast. The Wampanoag brought deer and there would have been lots of local seafood (mussels, lobster, bass) plus the fruits of the first pilgrim harvest, including pumpkin. No mashed potatoes, though. Potatoes had only been recently shipped back to Europe from South America.

America first called for a National Day of Thanksgiving to celebrate victory over the British in the Battle of Saratoga. In 1789, George Washington again called for National Day of Thanks on the last Thursday of November in 1777 to commemorate the end of the Revolutionary War and the ratification of the Constitution. And during the Civil War, both the Confederacy and the Union issued Thanksgiving Day proclamations following major victories.

The first official proclamation of a national Thanksgiving holiday didn't come until 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln called for an annual Thanksgiving celebration on the final Thursday in November. The proclamation was the result of years of impassioned lobbying by "Mary Had a Little Lamb" author and abolitionist Sarah Josepha Hale.

Pumpkin pie was a staple on New England Thanksgiving tables as far back as the turn of the 18th century. Legend has it that the Connecticut town of Colchester postponed its Thanksgiving feast for a week in 1705 due to a molasses shortage. There could simply be no Thanksgiving without pumpkin pie.

Cranberries were eaten by Native Americans and used as a potent red dye, but sweetened cranberry relish was almost certainly not on the first Thanksgiving table. The pilgrims had long exhausted their sugar supply by November 1621. Marcus Urann canned the first jellied cranberry sauce in 1912 and eventually founded the cranberry grower's cooperative known as Ocean Spray.

In 1953, an employee at C.A. Swanson & Sons overestimated demand for Thanksgiving turkey and the company was left with some 260 tons of extra frozen birds. As a solution, Smithsonian reports, a Swanson salesman ordered 5,000 aluminum trays, devised a turkey meal and recruited an assembly line of workers to compile what would become the first TV tray dinners. A culinary hit was born. In the first full year of production, 1954, the company sold 10 million turkey TV tray dinners.

The winning combo of football and Thanksgiving kicked off way before there was anything called the NFL. The first Thanksgiving football game was a college match between Yale and Princeton in 1876, only 13 years after Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday. Soon after, Thanksgiving was

picked for the college football championships. By the 1890s, thousands of colleges and high school football rivalries were played every Thanksgiving. In 1934, the Detroit Lions of the NFL held its first Thanksgiving Day football game which lasts to this day.

Starting in the 1940s, farmers would gift the president with some plump birds for roast turkey over the holidays, which the first family would invariably eat. President John F. Kennedy was the first American president to spare a turkey's life ("We'll just let this one grow," JFK quipped in 1963. "It's our Thanksgiving present to him.") The annual White House tradition of "pardoning" a turkey officially started with President George H.W. Bush in 1989.

### **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**

To celebrate the expansion of its Herald Square superstore, Macy's announced its very first "Big Christmas Parade" two weeks before Thanksgiving in 1924, which promised "magnificent floats," bands and an "animal circus," which was a huge success. Macy's trimmed the parade route from six miles to two miles and signed a TV contract with NBC in 1953 to broadcast the now famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

In 1927, the first oversized balloons debuted in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. It was the brainchild of Anthony Frederick Sarg, a German-born puppeteer and theatrical designer who also created Macy's fantastical Christmas window displays. The first balloons were filled with oxygen, not helium, and featured Felix the Cat and inflated animals.

Mickey Mouse made his first debut at the 1934 Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

According to the NY Daily News, the 1937 parade featured seven musical organizations, twenty-one floats and balloon units and 400

costumed marchers. A group of elephants participated in the 1954 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Of course, it wouldn't be the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade without a performance by the Rockettes, who first appeared in 1957 and the appearance of Santa Claus which began in 1925.



### **A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER**

**O Gracious God,** we give You thanks for Your blessings given to us this day. Thank you for our home, our family and friends, especially for whom we gather with us this day. Thank you for the blessings of the food which we will partake of from Your providence. Thank you for our health, our work and our play.

**Lord,** open our hearts to Your love so we may help those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering at this time. We gratefully remember all our family members and loved ones who are not here, as we celebrate this most special day. May we live every day being grateful for the grace You give to us. We offer this humble prayer, out of our love for You, as we do in all things, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A FINAL THOUGHT THIS THANKSGIVING**

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

- Melody Beattie