

# November 19, 2017    **Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, November 18

5:00 p.m.                    +**Charles C. Guerriere**  
By Charlie and Nancy Guerriere

### Sunday, November 19

8:00 a.m.    **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m.                    +**Nicholas DeSanto**  
By The Altar Rosary Society

### Monday, November 20

8:45 a.m.                    **In Thanksgiving of Saint Francis**  
By Angela Gross

### Tuesday, November 21

8:45 a.m.                    +**Louis Steinhauer**  
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

### Wednesday, November 22

8:45 a.m.                    +**Peter Ochsenfeld**  
By Florence Ochsenfeld

### Thursday, November 23

8:45 a.m.                    +**Rose Howe and Charles J. Mallon**  
By Barbara Mallon

### Friday, November 24

8:45 a.m.                    +**Janet DiFonzo**  
By Husband

### Saturday, November 25

5:00 p.m.                    **Altar Rosary Society**

### Sunday, November 26

8:00 a.m.    **Blessings of Health of Irma Marquart**  
By Altar Rosary Society

10:30 a.m.                    +**Janet DiFonzo**  
By Husband



## Meaning of Thanksgiving - The Real Celebration

For many of us, the meaning of Thanksgiving usually includes feasting, four-day weekends, football games, floats,

family reunions, or a forerunner to Christmas festivities. The “first Thanksgiving,” however, was neither a feast nor a holiday, but a simple gathering. Following the *Mayflower*’s arrival at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620, the Pilgrims suffered the loss of 46 of their original 102 colonists. With the help of 91 Indians, the remaining Pilgrims survived the bitter winter and yielded a bountiful harvest in 1621. In celebration, a traditional English harvest festival, lasting three days brought the Pilgrims and natives to unite in a “thanksgiving” observance.

This “thanksgiving” meal would not be celebrated again until June of 1676. On June 29 the community

of Charlestown, Massachusetts proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for their good fortune. Ironically, this celebration excluded the Indians, as the colonists’ recognized their recent victory over the “heathen natives.” One hundred years later, in October of 1777, all 13 colonies participated in a one-time “thanksgiving” celebration which commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. It would take a span of over 150 more years to establish Thanksgiving as we celebrate it -- George Washington proclaimed it a National holiday in 1789, Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November in 1863, and Congress sanctioned it as a legal holiday in 1941.

## Meaning of Thanksgiving - Expressions of Gratitude

The meaning of Thanksgiving has undergone numerous transitions -- an expression of gratitude for survival, a council’s recognition of its flourishing community, submission of the local natives, the defeat over the British, resulting in a collection of our nation’s traditions and values. Over the centuries, families added their customs to the Thanksgiving celebration, preserving that which they held most precious.

- To gather in unity – It is refreshing and invigorating when people come together, in celebration of a common purpose. It is a reconciliation of differences as well as a time of healing. In sharing our victories as well as our struggles, we find strength and hope.
- To teach the young – In stories retold, each generation brings purpose and significance to the richness of their heritage. Faded pictures, sentimental knick-knacks, even the prayer of Thanksgiving before the meal all form a Thanksgiving family legacy.
- To prepare the heart – In gratitude, we humbly reflect upon all the gifts (family, friends, health) that saturate our lives. By “giving-thanks” we choose to extend ourselves and give to others less fortunate. Out of the abundance of our hearts, we are able to offer our resources to help others.

## Meaning of Thanksgiving - Praise to God

In the Bible, the meaning of thanksgiving reflected adoration, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. Thanksgiving was a grateful language to God as an act of worship. Rarely, if ever, was thanksgiving extended to any person or thing, except God. “These things I remember as I pour out my soul; how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the

house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng” (Psalm 42:4). Long before the colonists celebrated their successes, Nehemiah assembled two great choirs to give thanks for God’s faithfulness in rebuilding the wall. “. . . The Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully and dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps, and lyres” (Nehemiah 12:27).

The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationship. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and man. Upon their arrival at New Plymouth, the Pilgrims composed The Mayflower Compact, which honored God. Thanksgiving begins with acknowledging God as faithful, earnestly giving Him thanks, in advance, for His abundant blessings. “. . . In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6). Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart that reinforces an intimate relationship with God.



**December 2, 9:30 a.m.  
at the Mansfield Township School**

If you haven’t donated a basket yet, there is still time and the basket suggestions board is still posted in the Narthex. To make things easier if you are stumped, why not purchase a gift card. **Gift and Grocery cards are always welcome. Our Altar Rosary Society sells Grocery Cards after all the Masses.**



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Patty Mahoney, Susan Reynolds, Millie B., Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars

**PLEASE NOTE:** We ask those of you who will be contributing gift cards or monetary gifts to the *Giving Tree* to please put your donations in the first collection basket. The ushers and counting teams will see that your donations are handed into the Parish Office for safe keeping.

**Our Weekly Offering**

**Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.**

**(Deficit To Date \$22,629.05)**

**November 12: \$2,524 -\$1,113.**

**November 5: \$2,160 -\$1,477.**

***Altar Rosary Society Gift Shop***



Come visit the Gift Shop for savings of 25% to 50% on many religious items. The shop has a unique inventory and these items would make

wonderful Christmas gifts for your loved ones. Who wouldn’t want a special icon of their Catholic faith to cherish forever?

Advent wreaths and candles also are now available for purchase. Please stop by the Gift Shop located in the Parish Center after any weekend Mass. You won’t be disappointed!

Our church Anniversary celebration was a great success and our thanks go to those who had helped make this an eventful gathering. We have received wonderful feedback on the delicious food and the good time parishioners had socializing with other churchgoers. It was a great display of synergy. Many thanks to all.



**CLINTON YOUNG ADULT MEETING**

Come and join the discussion on "How to stay peaceful in this turbulent world," on Sunday, November 26th, at 6:30 PM at the Clinton Station Diner in Clinton. Young adults between the ages of 18 & 35 are welcome. We will also share ideas on how to grow closer to Jesus during Advent. For more info, contact us at

[ClintonYoungAdults@gmail.com](mailto:ClintonYoungAdults@gmail.com).