

Origins of Thanksgiving in Canada

The first official, annual Thanksgiving in Canada was celebrated on 6 November 1879, though Indigenous peoples in Canada have a history of celebrating the fall harvest that predates the arrival of European settlers. Sir Martin Frobisher and his crew are credited as the first Europeans to celebrate a Thanksgiving ceremony in North America, in 1578. They were followed by the inhabitants of New France under Samuel de Champlain in 1606. The celebration featuring the uniquely North American turkey, squash and pumpkin was introduced to Nova Scotia in the 1750s and became common across Canada by the 1870s.



The Order of Good Cheer by C.W. Jefferys (1925)

Indigenous peoples in North America have a history of holding communal feasts in celebration of the fall harvest that predates the arrival of European settlers. The Smithsonian Institute has noted that some First Nations “sought to insure a good harvest with dances and rituals.” The European settlers brought with them a similar tradition of harvest celebrations (for which the symbol was the cornucopia, or horn of plenty), which dates back to European peasant societies.

The first Thanksgiving by Europeans in North America was held by Sir Martin Frobisher and his crew in the Eastern Arctic in 1578. They ate a meal of salt beef, biscuits and mushy peas to celebrate and give thanks for their safe arrival in Newfoundland. They celebrated Communion and formally expressed their thanks through the ship’s Chaplain, Robert Wollfall, who, according to explorer Richard Collinson, “made unto them a godly sermon, exhorting them especially to be thankfull to God for theyr strange and miraculous deliverance in those so dangerous places [sic].”

In 1606, in an attempt to prevent the kind of scurvy epidemic that had decimated the settlement at Île Ste. Croix in the winter of 1604–05, Samuel de Champlain founded a series of rotating feasts at Port Royal called the Ordre de Bon Temps (“Order of Good Cheer”). Local Mi’kmaq families were also invited. The first feast was held on 14 November 1606 to celebrate the return of Jean de Biencourt de Poutrincourt from an expedition. Having attended the festivities, Marc Lescarbot remarked that they consisted of “a feast, a discharge of musketry, and as much noise as could be made by some fifty men, joined by a few Indians, whose families served as spectators.”

This was 17 years before what is often recognized as the first American Thanksgiving — the Pilgrims’ celebration of their first harvest in Massachusetts in 1621 (which was actually predated by several similar events in the New England colonies by at least 14 years). The prototypical Thanksgiving feast featuring the uniquely North American turkey, squash and pumpkin was introduced to Nova Scotia in the 1750s. The citizens of Halifax commemorated the end of the Seven Years’ War in 1763 with a day of Thanksgiving, and Loyalists subsequently brought the celebration to other parts of the country.

The first national Thanksgiving in Canada was celebrated in the Province of Canada in 1859. It was organized at the behest of leaders of the Protestant clergy, who appropriated the holiday of American Thanksgiving, which was first observed in 1777 and established as a national day of “public thanksgiving and prayer” in 1789. In Canada, the holiday was intended for the “public and solemn” recognition of God’s mercies. It was not until 31 January 1957 that Parliament proclaimed the observance of the second Monday in October as “a day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.”

Thanksgiving is an official statutory holiday in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador. It is called *Action de grâce* in Québec and is celebrated to a much lesser extent there than in the rest of the country, given the holiday’s Protestant origins and Anglo-nationalist associations. The main differences among the other provinces tend to concern the dishes that are served with the meal.

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

October 7, 2018

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deepening our Appreciation of Eucharist and Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,

This is indeed a beautiful time of the year. As family and friends gather around the table, indeed we must raise our eyes in praise and thanks to God. The beauty and abundance of God’s creation enriches our lives and fills our days with joy and wonder. This Sunday’s Collect sums it up well, “For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.”

This is also a very good time to be thinking about the Eucharist. The Greek word *Eucharist* means Thanksgiving. In the Eucharist we celebrate the tremendous gift of the body and blood of Christ offered as a sacrifice commemorating and renewing the sacrifice of the cross so that we may be united with our heavenly Father for eternity. That is indeed a lot to be thankful for.

To arrive at a greater understanding of the depth of this mystery, we are beginning a study of Bishop Robert Barron’s DVD video and study guide *The Mass*. It will take place on Thursdays after the morning Mass. If you would like us to organize evening sessions because you’re unable to make it in the morning, please contact the office. If there are enough people interested we could arrange to do evening sessions as well.

Let us pray that our Blessed Mother may help us draw closer to her son, Jesus, through the Eucharist this Thanksgiving. On behalf of all the priests, I extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a blessed Thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Babu Mathew, CSsR



MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Children’s Mass: 9am 1st
Sunday of the month Oct-June
Children’s Liturgy: 11am
All Sundays except the 1st
Sunday from Sept- June
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor

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Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.

In Residence

William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

Office Manager

Virginia Fong

Pastoral Coordinator

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NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Sept 29 & 30: \$6,986.75. Needs of Canadian Church: \$1,070.80. CSsR Pension: \$20. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Project Advance Report: On Sept 30 pledges including recurring donations up to 31 Dec this year were at \$61,211 with participation from 114 donors. We have now exceeded our archdiocesan goal of \$52,000. All funds raised now will be rebated to the parish. Our total goal is \$104,000 which will go toward the Parish infrastructure renewal. Please make a prayerful contribution to Project Advance this year. Thank you for your support.

PREP Teachers Needed: We are still in need of teachers for PREP to teach Grades 3, 4 and 5. PREP is Catechism for children in non-Catholic schools. If you can help, please contact Elizabeth Towers 604-440-8809.

Know More About the Catholic Faith: If you are interested in the Catholic faith or have been away from the Church for some time and would like to come back, join us on Sunday mornings for The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). It is a beautiful journey of spiritual discovery culminating in Easter celebrations on April 21 next year. If you are already in the faith and know of people who have not discovered Jesus, have missed receiving First Communion and Confirmation, or simply fallen out of the practice of the Faith, extend a personal invitation to them to join us on this spiritual journey. Starting Sunday Sept 23, 9am-10:30am. Application forms available in the church foyer and parish office.

D & P Fall Workshop - Share the Journey: This year, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada is joining forces with Pope Francis and Caritas Internationalis by inviting Canadians to share the journey with those living the tragedy of forced migration. Launched in Rome in September 2017, the Share the Journey campaign aims to create a “culture of encounter” by educating the public to the realities of those forced to flee their homes and creating opportunities for encounters between them and local communities. Join us for our fall workshop on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's Parish, Vancouver.

Rosary Rally at Vancouver Art Gallery: Join us for a Rosary rally on Saturday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m. at the North Plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery, facing West Georgia St.

Encourage: EnCourage is a support group dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, relatives, and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Join us for our next meeting on Sunday, Oct. 21, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you would like to join EnCourage, please contact Deacon Bruce Fraser at encourage@rcav.org.

Stewardship Awards 2018: The Archdiocesan Award for Stewardship honours members of the laity who have provided exceptional service toward our Archdiocesan Priorities and Goals in time, talent or treasure to their parishes or the archdiocesan Church as an example of outstanding, Christian stewardship. Please submit your nominations to rcav.org/stewardship-award-nomination by Oct. 5. Awards will be presented at Mass on the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday, Nov. 25, at 2:30 p.m. at the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. All faithful are invited to attend. For more info, please contact stewardship@rcav.org.

Holy Angels Mausolea & Columbaria: Catholic Cemeteries is constructing a new mausolea and columbaria on its sacred grounds at Gardens of Gethsemani. Holy Angels Mausolea & Columbaria will include the addition of full body crypts, granite niches, and glass-fronted niches, providing a bright and reverent space for remembering. Special pre-construction discount available starting Sept. 1. Purchase before Oct. 31 and receive 20% off your purchase. For more info, go to HolyAngelsatGardens.ca.

Archbishop's Dinner 2018: Join us on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. at Hyatt Regency, Vancouver. Reception at 6 p.m. Archbishop Miller has designated the proceeds of the Seventh Annual Archbishop's Dinner to help the Archdiocese meet the costs of its intensive and comprehensive formation program for our future permanent deacons, along with the continuing education of those already ordained. Purchase tickets today at <https://rcav.org/dinner2018/>

Stewardship Reflection

“So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.” -- GENESIS 2:19

The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the start, God has put the entire world into our care. Second, stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind, it isn't something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

12-week Marian Meditations

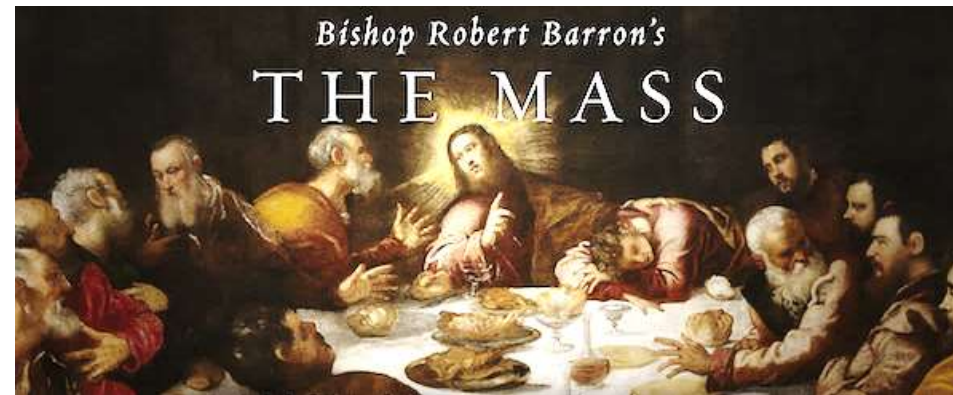
Missed a few? You can still join us on Thursdays between the Birthday of Mary (Sept 8) and the start of Advent (Dec 2) for a series of Marian Meditations with prayers and music. Thursdays at our parish have been dedicated to novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This will be another beautiful way to invoke the help of Our Blessed Mother for the spiritual and temporal needs of your family and friends for the coming year. Thursdays 2:30pm-3pm.

OLPH Youth Fundraiser



Pumpkin, apple and blueberry pies with yummy buttery crusts will be on sale this weekend as part of an OLPH Youth Fundraiser to Yellowknife. Pies are going for \$15. Cash and cheques only. You can also make a donation to the OLPH Youth Ministry on the Parish website www.olphchurch.ca. Thank you for your generous support!

School Harvest Fair



Bishop Barron's Talk on Mass and Study

Walk through the Liturgy of the Mass with Bishop Barron and you'll be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. See how the Mass brings us out of the fallen world and into the heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and, most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. The Mass will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian life. The study is over 6 Thursdays and will begin on October 11, 9-10am in the Madonna Room following the 8am Mass and coffee.

Eucharist Means Thanksgiving

This week our entire nation will celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, and as North American Catholics we not only give thanks for the founding of our nation, but we are also reminded that the word Eucharist means “Thanksgiving.”

Jesus instituted the Eucharist the night before he died at the Last Supper. He took bread and gave thanks to God saying, “Do this in memory of me.” We are commanded to remember the supreme love of Christ for us that holds nothing back, that gives everything for our freedom. So naturally the sacrificial banquet of remembrance is called the Eucharist, or “thanksgiving.”

The priest introduces the great central prayer of the celebration with these words: “let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” And we respond “it is right to give him thanks and praise.” But true thanksgiving is not just a matter of words and warm sentiments. Gratitude for a gift means offering a gift in return. He gave his whole, entire self to us—his body, blood, soul, divinity. The only adequate response would be to offer ourselves.

Note what Paul says in his letter to the Romans: “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Rom 12:1). In the Mass we are asked to give ourselves to Christ... our hopes, fears, sorrows and joys. We are asked to come to his table just as we are, receive his sacrifice of love and give our lives to him as a sacrifice of love in return.

So thanksgiving cannot be separated from sacrifice. The Mass is a celebration of his love and the freedom it won for us through his sacrifice. Through it, the love of God is poured into our hearts and enables us to love with his love. In the power of that love, we offer ourselves back to him and enter into that sacrifice which we celebrate. True thanksgiving means self-giving. This is the meaning of Eucharist.

www.livingbreadradio.com



Awesome Act of Pie-ty!

OLPH Youth had an outstanding response to their pie sales last week for their fundraising efforts for Yellowknife. We've also had some wonderful feedback about how great the pies taste...so don't miss out. We will have more pies available for sale after all Masses this weekend. Frozen pies are going for \$15 each. Cash and cheques only. Thank you for your support!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Redemptorist

Pilgrimage: May 2-14

As part of our 150th Jubilee Icon of Love celebrations, the Redemptorists all over the world have organized several pilgrimages to visit the actual icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, places where St Alphonsus and St Gerard Majella lived and prayed as well as other places of interest in Italy.

There will be 2 information sessions on Sunday Oct 28 after the 9am and 11am Masses. The cost of the trip is \$4800. The early bird rate is \$4600. A deposit of \$500 must be made before Nov 30 for the early bird rate. Full payment is due by Jan 30, 2019. Arrangements can be made for pre-authorized payments as well. For more information about the pilgrimage, please contact Brian or Deon royaleorchid@shaw.ca or call Brian 778-999-4599 / 778-866-8118.



12-DAY ITINERARY

Day 01: May 02 2019 - Canada to Rome / Naples

Day 02: May 03 - Arrive in Rome – Marianella – Naples

Day 03: May 04 - Pompeii – Amalfi Coast

Day 04: May 05 - Excursion to Scala

Day 05: May 06 - Sites of St.

Alphonsus and St. Gerard Majella

Day 06: May 07 - Amalfi –

Montecassiano – Rome

Day 7: May 08 - Papal Audience – Holy

Doors of Rome – Relics of Jerusalem

Day 8: May 09 - Rome (Vatican)

Day 9: May 10 - Assisi – Sites of St.

Francis and St. Clare

DAY 10: May 11 - Pisa – Padua

DAY 11: May 12 – Venice – St. Mark's

Square - Murano Glass Factory

DAY 12: May 13 – Goodbye Italy