

CHURCH CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2023



RICHLY BLESSED

This month we celebrate a national holiday that is uniquely American in its origins. Our Thanksgiving Day is traditionally founded on the Pilgrims' 3-day feast in 1621 at Plymouth to celebrate a bountiful harvest and give thanks to God for His protection and provision. Our nation truly does have a blessed heritage.

The American Thanksgiving celebration is woven through our history, winding through decades of peace and plenty, but also of poverty and war. It stands on the shoulders of great men and women of God, who sacrificed all for their faith and their families and who had the courage to acknowledge and thank God in times of abundance and in times of great need.

Consider the words of our first president, George Washington, in the first federal Thanksgiving proclamation. On the heels of a devastating but victorious fight for our independence, Washington proclaimed, "[I]t is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor...that we may all unite to render unto Him our sincere and humble thanks..."

During the darkest days of another war, only three months after over 60,000 Americans lost their lives on the fields of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln could say, "The year that is drawing to its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies... [t]hey are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, Who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."

While governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Founding Father Thomas Jefferson appointed, "[A] day of public Thanksgiving to Almighty God...to [ask] Him that He would..."

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What are you thankful for?

Here at Wisconsin Family Council, we are grateful for many things. High on the list of what we are thankful for are the many faithful friends who pray for us and support us financially. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! May you reap as you have sown, and God grant you a blessed Thanksgiving with friends and family.

As you spend time with family and friends, take time to reflect on God's many blessings. You might even make a list, and help your children to see that the greatest blessings are not the material ones.

STRENGTHENING,
PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

- 1 Thess. 5:18



establish these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue.”¹

What a profound heritage! What an amazing legacy! Religion, virtue, and thanksgiving. It’s no wonder our nation is one of the most prosperous and free countries on the face of the earth. We were founded on timeless principles of freedom, virtue, responsibility, justice, and faith.

Nevertheless, we are not special because we are Americans. America is special only

because God has chosen to bless us. Who can doubt it? Even in our times of need, we’re still better off than the majority of the people in the world.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and acknowledge God’s provision and protection for our families, our churches, and our nation. We are profoundly blessed.

The list of blessings is long. Among the best is that we still have the freedom to gather in our churches, to worship the Lord, to raise our children in the fear of the Lord.

It is right for us to give thanks to the Lord for His blessings and for the many men and women He used to bless us, from the Native Americans at Plymouth Colony, to the Founding Fathers, to the heroes of our day who champion our freedoms in legislatures, courts, town halls and in faraway places where battles still too often happen.

With blessing comes responsibility. We ought to uphold the freedoms God has granted us and teach His Truth to the next generation. May we each do our part to protect the precious liberty that so many sacrificed for us to enjoy.

Please join us this Thanksgiving as we give thanks to the Lord. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise... [f]or the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”

1 <http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=17984#R25>.

A SOBER WARNING

Psalm 9:17 sounds a sober warning: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” Even as we take time this month to thank God for His rich blessings on our land, we must acknowledge that as a country we are quickly forgetting God and are thus deserving of His judgment. Let us pray for revival in our churches and in our land. May God help us to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers, and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God’s plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

PO Box 14440 | Madison WI 53708 | 888-378-7395 (toll free) | info@wifamilycouncil.org | wifamilycouncil.org