

Day 204 – Saturday, October 10, 2020

Thanksgiving weekend. I am always torn at this time of year. This time of year is my least favorite time of year. The trees have shed most of their leaves. The grass is turning yellow. The crops have been reduced to stubble. For me it is a time of the year when all life seems to be leaching out of the world. The long cold death of winter is just around the corner.

I have a theory that the quality of a winter is dependent on the previous summer. If you had a great summer, it will not matter how long or cold the winter is, you will endure it with great joy. However, if you had a miserable summer, even a mild winter will seem too long. Between COVID, hurting my shoulder and only a little canoe time, my summer was less than enthusiastic. So I can only look forward to a long winter.

But I am torn. This time of year also brings me a great deal of joy. This weekend is Thanksgiving, and I have much to be thankful for. Both of my parishes have done exceptional Thanksgiving displays; lots of color and lots of garden/farm produce. I am also very thankful that I am okay after my accident. I am in a wonderful parish, and had one of my best years of ministry. It is also only 16 days until the greatest day in the history of the universe. Not to mention Halloween is just around the corner, and it is a day when I am flooded with memories of traipsing around Nipawin getting a mitt load of candy.

Perhaps the pros do out weigh the cons, and instead of looking at the glass half empty, I need to look at it half full.

I do hope and pray that each one of you has a joyous Thanksgiving weekend with your family. If we all focus on the blessings we have received, which is what Thanksgiving is all about, then perhaps we can bring hope and laughter to even the darkest heart.

The following is a prayer you can use prior at your Thanksgiving meal.

A Prayer of Thanks for Food and Family Before the Meal

Thank You, Lord God, for this food we are about to eat.

Thank You for the hands that have prepared it,

for those sitting around the table who are here to share it,

and for the ability to be here together under one roof,

and enjoy these blessings at Your hand.

We realize that everything we have comes from You

and for that we are eternally grateful.

We also thank You for what we don't have this year,

for we trust that You have withheld in Your goodness and out of Your protection for us.

Thank You that Scripture says You are a Good Father who loves to give gifts to Your children.

We sit here as evidence of Your goodness.

Thank You for the gift of today and all who are here to share it with us.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley

Sincerely,

Fr. Jim Kaptein