

Driving around, I see the trees hinting that fall is here and winter is coming. Do you ever sit back and think “my life is full of blessings Lord, but why am I so often unable to see them?” In the business of our lives we are so caught up in what needs to be done, or what has happened or is going to happen that we are blind to all the good that surrounds us. Caught up in the “storm” we forget that the sun always returns. In a few weeks we celebrate once again Thanksgiving – or what I like to call “Thanksliving.” It is a wonderful opportunity to look at our lives through the eyes of faith, and to recognize just what a faithful companion we have in God. Looking at our parish, and the number of people it takes to keep it going we are indeed fortunate and blessed by those whose love and dedication is shown day after day, week after week and year after year. We are blessed with new people who choose to become part of our parish family. We are blessed with those who support our efforts by attending our many functions throughout the year. We are blessed with young men and women who have a genuine concern for the welfare of our parish family. We are blessed with girls and boys who are eager to serve at the Divine Liturgy and have fun helping out where they can. We are blessed with a wonderful group of people who love to sing and help to lift our hearts at Divine Services. We are blessed to enjoy a good reputation in the community in which we live – as we make an effort to help those less fortunate and co-operate with other church groups as they work for the good of their parishes and families. This week take some time to count your blessings – you’ll be surprised just how many there are once you think about your life, your family, your friends, your faith community and the community in which you live. When you recognize how God was and is present in your daily life, and how Jesus has shown to us the ability to love even in diverse times; you will be overwhelmed by the wonder of life. His love was, is, and will always be unconditional, non-judgmental, compassionate and steadfast. When fear gives way to love, there is no limit to what we are capable of as God’s children – for in Him we live and have our being – in God we are safe, not always protected by the pitfalls of our human condition – but we have a safe haven to return to after every trial and tribulation – in His love all things work out – and trusting in Him we know that life is good. Remember the old saying “Believe and receive, doubt and go without!” Never doubt how much God loves you, and never doubt your own worth as God’s child and as a human being... for created in the image and likeness of God you are destined for greatness – shining with His love you will always be the best you can be!

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, so often I am blinded by anxiety and worry, and the need to be busy always. Help me, slow me down, that I may be aware of Your presence and my many blessing not just at Thanksgiving, but always. May my life be lived always in gratitude so that “thanksgiving” is transformed into “thanksliving.” I thank you for your love, for the gift of faith, and place my trust in Your words. I am your sister/brother, and together we can overcome any obstacle and radiate the joy of life with You. Amen