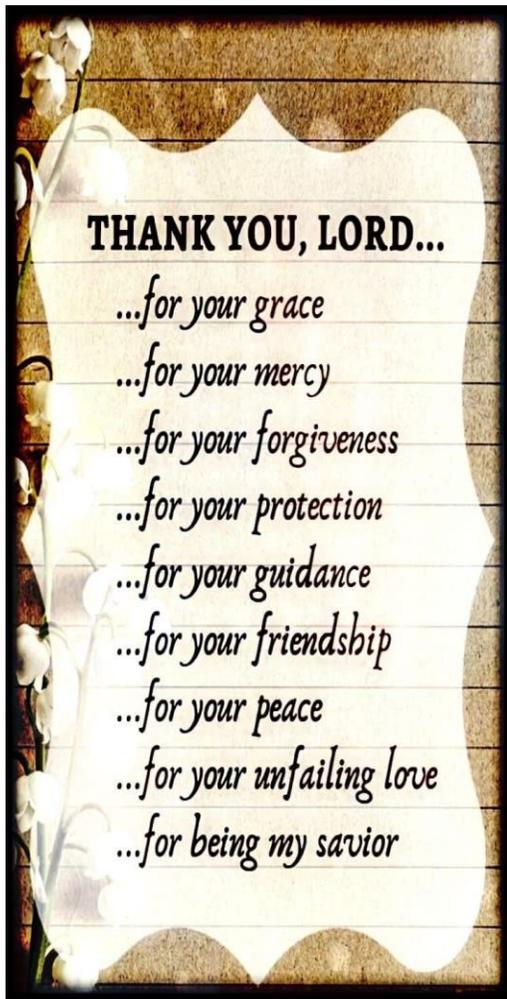


FR. ANTON'S WORDS OF WISDOM:



I cannot express adequately in words my gratitude for your expression of love and good wishes on the occasion of my 63rd. Birthday last week. Thanks you also to all those who were so generous with their gifts - I am truly blessed to be the pastor here at St. John's. I first came to the parish when it was founded in 1981 at the age of 24, after a good number of years in Northern Ontario I returned at the age of 44 and here I am, still here at the age after 19 years as your Shepherd. How God has blessed my life and brought me full circle. May our Lord bless You as you have blessed me, and may we continue to grow together in love and in faith. The rest of this column is one that you read every Thanksgiving, and it can never be repeated too much: In the midst of this joy and the beauty of Autumn I am reminded of the need to live a grateful life especially in this time of the Pandemic. By grateful I mean to make every effort possible to recognize how much my life is blessed. I have never forgotten my very humble beginnings in a small northern Ontario mining town and my life's journey that has led me to this day. Never as a child in my wildest imagining could I have thought that I would be where I am. I have been fortunate to have positive people in my life, supportive of me in every step of my journey. I was lucky enough to have a University education even though it took a lot of hard work to get there. And many years ago I was led to this parish under the guidance and example of its founder Fr. Walter. Monday we celebrate THANKSGIVING and my favorite saying bears repeating and that is; "True thanksgiving is "THANKSLIVING"" This should be the spirit of all

who claim to believe, all who consider themselves Christian. Christianity is not a religion for whiners; rather it is a way of life for those who have found in Christ the ability to celebrate their lives regardless of what besets them. Christians never live in despair, but in hope. Christians never live in want, but are thankful for what they have. Christians never seek to be held in high esteem, but rather accept and respect all as God's children. Christians do not seek to be wealthy or better than others, but live their lives in gratefulness. Christians do not judge others, since only God knows the hearts of others and their life's journey. Christians don't hold grudges and are quick to forgive. Christians swallow their pride and take responsibility for their actions. Christians love others because God's loves them and has shown the greatness of that love in the person of Jesus. Each and every moment of every day should be filled with gratitude. God is faithful and keeps his promises; he truly is a loving Father.

Let us pray: Loving God, the celebration Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Help me to live my life recognizing how blessed my life is by "Thanksgiving." May I be grateful every moment of my life's journey? In my darkest moments never let me feel alone, give me the courage to whisper your name and together we can see them through. Help me to be a positive influence in the lives of others that they might meet Christ in me. For all I am, for all I have in and through You, I give You thanks. Amen.