

NOV 23-24, 2019



OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts

*Our vision is to lead all whose lives we touch
into a living relationship with the person of
Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament,
Service and Fellowship.*

www.youghcatholic.org



**AND YOU SHALL CELEBRATE WITH ALL OF THE BOUNTY
THAT YAHWEH YOUR GOD GAVE TO YOU AND TO YOUR FAMILY...
DEUT. 26:11**

To our visitors... If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

DEVIVO CENTRE

116 South 2nd Street
Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / 1-4pm
FRI 8:30am-1pm

BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road
Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm

SATs 5:15-5:45pm at IC

Confession

and by appointment

We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul to help our neighbors in need. Their number is 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is PAUL G. FINK FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville (1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar (1874), Saint John the Evangelist, Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of Cascia, Connellsville (1915).



We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul, Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville (1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp, West Leisenring (1917-1997).

OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

FR. PAUL LISIK

Pastor

plisik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

FR. JULIUS CAPONGPONGAN

Parochial Vicar

jcapongponan@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Hospital ministry, homebound visits

FR. DANIEL CARR

Parochial Vicar

dcarr@dioceseofgreensburg.org

SR. DONNA MULLIGAN

Director of Pastoral Ministry

dmulligan@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Communion to the sick/homebound

MARY SAMPEY

Director of Evangelization

msampey@dioceseofgreensburg.org
RCIA, Foundations of Faith, youth ministry, sacramental prep

MOLLI VASSAR

RCIA Coordinator, Spiritual Counseling

mvassar@dioceseofgreensburg.org

LOU ANN LAUFFER

Business Manager, Connellsville

llauffer@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Connellsville general parish business, cemetery lots/deeds

SUSAN DUNKARD

Business Manager, Dunbar

sdunkard@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Dunbar general parish business

LISA ANDURSKY

Administrative Assistant

landursky@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Connellsville baptism, marriage, Mass scheduling

KAREN TWEARDY

Parish Secretary, Connellsville

ktweardy@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Bulletin (deadline MON at noon), envelopes, membership

TINA MAHALLICK

Parish Secretary, Dunbar

tmahallick@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Dunbar Mass scheduling

DAVID HERTZNELL

Maintenance, Connellsville

dhertznell@dioceseofgreensburg.org

DAVID BALLARD

Maintenance/Cemetery Care, Dunbar

dballard@dioceseofgreensburg.org

DAVID PANZELLA

Cemetery Care, Connellsville/Dawson
724.323.5365

SAT-SUN, NOV 16-17, 2019 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult.....	\$4,857.00
Loose.....	534.00
Maintenance.....	5.00
Total:	\$5,396.00

Cemetery	\$125.00
All Saints	\$10.00
Thanksgiving	\$5.00
Military	\$687.00
Retired Religious	\$5.00



ST. ALOYSIUS

Adult.....	\$3,088.00
Loose.....	105.00
Children/Young Adults	26.00
Parish Improvements.....	10.00
Total:	\$3,229.00

Accent.....	\$31.00
-------------	---------



ST. JOHN

Adult.....	\$2,624.00
Loose.....	93.00
Total:	\$2,717.00
Cemetery	\$52.00
All Saints	\$12.00
Retired Religious	\$10.00
Military	\$319.00



ST. RITA

Adult.....	\$3,250.00
Loose.....	202.11
Maintenance.....	108.00
Total:	\$3,560.11
Cemetery	\$93.00
All Saints	\$6.00
Mission Sunday.....	\$20.00
Catholic Relief.....	\$15.00
Military	\$328.00

The DIOCESE'S POVERTY RELIEF FUND/ CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION will be taken up THIS weekend.

Three-quarters of the contributions will remain in the diocese to support the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund. The remaining quarter will go to CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief effort.



Colossians 1:12-20 CHRIST OUR SOURCE OF UNITY

Strive to live a united life. Let all the parts of your life work together. If you have a family, devote yourself to their needs, more than your own preferences. If you apply for a job, apply for one that helps you contribute to society with the particular skills you have. When you choose entertainments, choose those that give you life, not ones that belittle others or that feed your uncontrollable passions. And when you go to church, express your faith and open your

heart to the revelation of God. Then, from Sunday to Sunday, from Eucharist to Eucharist, day in and day out, you will live the Christian life. All the parts of your life will be united.

Some people separate their lives into compartments. They engage in illicit activities at work, but they say it isn't really who they are. They never bring their faith with them into the voting booth. They sing hymns of God's love at church, but they practice selfishness at home. They say they love their family, but they betray them in the lusts of a moment's weakness.

You cannot live peacefully that way. You need a united life. There is one who can unite life for you, because there is only one who unites all things. "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church." He is Christ the King.

Written by Paul Turner. Copyright © 2009, Resource Publications, Inc., 888-273-7782, www.rpinet.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from *Lectionary Bulletin Inserts*, Year C: First and Second Readings.

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING celebrates Christ's Kingship in an altogether non-worldly way. Jesus was anointed by the Father with the oil of gladness as the Eternal Priest and Universal King. As Priest, He offered His life on the altar of the cross and redeemed the human race by this one perfect sacrifice of peace. As King, He claims dominion over all creation, that He may present to the almighty Father, a Kingdom of truth and life, a Kingdom of holiness and grace, a Kingdom of justice, love and peace. May we present ourselves to Christ, our King, as we prepare for the upcoming new liturgical year as an example to our families and friends of what it means to have Christ as the center of our daily lives.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

MON: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4

TUE: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11

WED: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19

THU: Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28

Thanksgiving Day, Suggested: Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11;
1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

FRI: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33

SAT: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

SUN: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

What's Happening at home

Deadline to order for St. John's Slovak food sale is THIS MON, NOV 25. Call Liz at 628-7259. Cabbage rolls (halupki) \$3.50 each, frozen pirohi \$10/dozen. Pick-up will be SAT, DEC 7 in Moravek Hall, 9-11am.

The Giving Tree will be in the gathering area at St. Al's beginning THIS weekend. Please return all gifts by SUN, DEC 8 so that they can be delivered by St. Anne's deadline.

Gifts received after the deadline cannot be delivered.

Our Lady, Queen of the Yough Catholic Community Children's Choir will sing for the 9am Thanksgiving Day Mass at St. John. They will NOT rehearse on SAT, NOV 30 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Rehearsals will resume at 11am on SAT, DEC 7, in IC's choir loft.

The WED night Bible study at IC and the FRI morning Bible study at St. Al will NOT take place during Thanksgiving week.

IC Holy Name will be putting up the *Keep Christ in Christmas* signs on FRI, NOV 29 at 9am - rain date is SAT, NOV 30. Meet at IC's festival building. All are welcome to help.

IC Holy Name's Pancake, Buckwheat and Sausage Breakfast will be on SUN, DEC 1st in Sciberras Hall, from 7:30-11:30am. \$5.50 for adults and \$3 for children 9 and under.



St. Al's fundraising committee will meet on MON, DEC 2 at 6:30pm in the social hall, to discuss plans for the FEB Ethnic Dinner and the Feast of St. Aloysius in JUN. If you are willing to help but unable to attend the meeting, please call Joy at 366-7568.

A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

Gracious and generous God, we come before you today with grateful hearts. In the beauty and bounty of creation we see the work of your hand; in the loving faces around us we know your own love for us. May this meal nourish and strengthen us, so others may know your plenty in our kindness, and see your care and concern in our witness. Let us live true lives of gratitude, as we pray in thanks to you, our God who live forever and ever. *Amen.*

IC Holy Name will meet on MON, DEC 2 at 7pm in Sciberras Hall. All men are welcome.

ATTENTION ALL CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION: A mandatory rehearsal for all 8th graders being confirmed will take place on WED, DEC 4 at 6:30pm at IC. Sponsors MUST be present. The Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for THU, DEC 5 at 7pm at IC.

IC Christian Mothers will have a meeting on SAT, DEC 7 at 4pm, and afterward will attend 6pm Mass together as a group.

St. John 125th Anniversary Christmas ornaments are now available for purchase before/after SUN Masses. \$15 each or 2 for \$25.



St. John's Fundraising Committee thanks all parishioners who supported their Silent Festival fundraiser. A total of \$10,025 was raised towards the planning of the church's 125th Anniversary Celebration. Those who donated \$125 or more can pick up their appreciation set of 4 keepsake glasses on SUNs before Mass (10:30-11:15am) or after Mass in the social hall. Additional sets are available for \$25 or 2 sets/\$45.

The Christian Mothers' Advent/Christmas Party for all 4 parishes, hosted by St. Rita, will be held at Nino's Restaurant on SUN, DEC 1 at 3:30pm. \$28 is payable in advance. Checks are payable to St. Rita Christian Mothers, marked Advent/Christmas Party, and may be put in the collection basket. Reservations are due by MON, NOV 25 and can be made through Mary at 628-6832 or Betsy at 603-3872. Please bring an unwrapped baby item for Alternatives. Yes.

St. Rita Christian Mothers' Christmas Cookie Sale will be on SAT, DEC 7 beginning at 9am in Bucci Hall.

Donations of Robin Hood flour, Crisco, Imperial margarine, Domino granulated and powdered sugar and nuts would be appreciated. Also, monetary donations to help defray costs are being accepted by making checks payable to St. Rita Christian Mothers, and can be put in the collection basket, dropped off at the DeVivo Centre, or given directly to Rita Pratt.

There are a number of IC Anniversary keepsakes still available for purchase (great Christmas gifts):

- ♦ Christmas ornament - \$20
- ♦ Hanging stand - \$2.50
- ♦ Christmas cards - \$20/box of 25 or \$2 each
- ♦ Mug - \$10
- ♦ Cat's Meow of church - \$15

Fr. Dan will be giving an educational talk entitled "The O Antiphons: The Story of God's Promise" on MON, DEC 16 at St. Rita Church, beginning at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I would like to mention that our parishes have always been blessed by our volunteers. We have achieved some great work as parish families. This could not have been accomplished without volunteer help from our parishioners and even some people outside our parishes. I wish to thank all those who volunteered their time and talents to make our projects, activities and fund-raisers realities. They would not have happened without you. On behalf of IC, St. Al, St. John and St. Rita parishes, thank you for your help. I am so thankful for people like you. May God continue to bless you now, and I look forward to your help again in the future. *Fr. Paul*

IC's 150th anniversary year of celebration will come to an end with an AMEN PARTY after 9:30am Mass, on SUN, DEC 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Commemorative Books will be available at the party. Those who attended the anniversary dinner will receive a complementary book.

If you'd like to bring food for the party, please follow the suggestions below:

- ♦ A-M SAVORY appetizers, finger foods, snacks, etc.
- ♦ N-Z SWEET desserts, candy, etc.

Food should be dropped off in the social hall before Mass (8:30-9:15am)

EARLY HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

SUBMIT INFO BY	BULLETIN DATE
THU, DEC 5	DEC 21-22
FRI, DEC 13	DEC 28-29
TUE, DEC 17	JAN 4-5

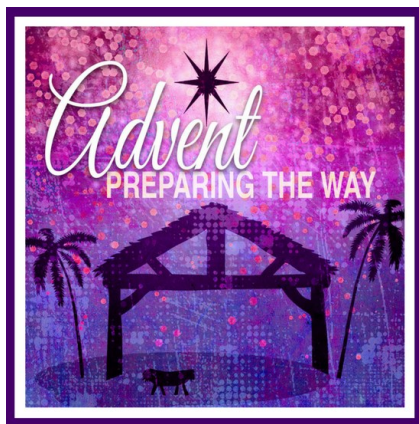


BARRY and MARSHA HUEY, new additions to our prayer list.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of TONY FAO (brother of Margaret Guess), BARRY GALLO, ESTHER RISER (mother of Charles Riser) and JACK SHARBAUGH (father of Ceal Solan), who died recently. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

ADVENT, which begins next SUN, is a season in which you and I prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. Hopefully, this translates into a generosity to Christ and His Church.

As we enter the Advent season, hopefully we are making plans not only to decorate our homes, but also our hearts as well. This can be accomplished by using Advent to prepare for the birth of our Savior.



The Photo Directory for our Catholic Community will soon be sent to the printer. Parishioners' names/addresses will be included whether you had a portrait taken or not. We will NOT publish phone numbers.

If you do NOT want your name/address in the directory, you MUST call Sr. Donna ASAP at 628-6840. Otherwise they will be included!



From Fr. Paul, Fr. Julius, Fr. Dan, and the ministry/office staffs at the DeVivo and Brady Centres.

Our offices will close at noon on WED, NOV 27 and remain closed through MON, DEC 2.

Thanksgiving Day Mass
will be celebrated at St. John at 9am.

The Thanksgiving Collection will go to the Holy Trinity Conference of St. Vincent DePaul, which serves our local area.

Please make an attempt to add prayers and works of charity and kind words, and a cheery disposition to all you do in this upcoming Advent season. We will then have a special gift to present to the Christ Child on Christmas.

Hopefully among your early Christmas decorations is the placement of the family Advent wreath in the living or dining room of your home.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our parishioners for their support toward the "St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Basket Project." Our Catholic Community is so extraordinarily generous. It never ceases to amaze me!

In one weekend alone, nearly ALL of the turkey feathers with food items to be donated on them were completely GONE. To be honest, Saint Vincent de Paul did not even NEED to ask for as many items as they have in the past, because a few weeks ago our community blessed them with an outpouring of pantry items during their food drive!

Since then, every Monday morning I have been greeted with monetary donations on my desk to offset the cost of the project, totaling as of this moment **\$835.00**. Gift cards have also been donated! Thank YOU!

As a result, Saint Vincent de Paul was able to pack 25 overflowing Thanksgiving baskets, complete with your food donations, several fresh items (such as eggs), AND a grocery gift card to each family. These baskets will be distributed this weekend in time for a Thanksgiving feast!

In a special way, I would like to thank St. Vincent de Paul. Each and every single member of their organization works tirelessly to serve our local community. St. Vincent de Paul not only serves the Catholic community, but ALL those in need. It is also beautiful to see how they work so well and so closely with Connellsville Area Community Ministries. Both of these groups truly are an extension of the Church, serving as Christ's hands and feet in a broken world. The work can no doubt be exhausting mentally, physically, spiritually, and emotionally. And yet, they treat

every single person they come in contact with as though he or she is Jesus in disguise.

I am reminded of a quote by the late Billy Graham: "*It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge, and my job to love.*" Saint Vincent de Paul is doing their job to love VERY well! They ask each person they meet...*How can I be Jesus to this person today?*

Pray for the Saint Vincent de Paul society here in Connellsville and thank them for what they do. Pray for those they serve. Ask yourself how you may be able to get involved. If you feel called to volunteer or become a member of St. Vincent de Paul, you may call the DeVivo Centre at 628-6840 and we would be more than happy to direct you.

Christ's peace
and our Mother Mary's love,
Mary Sampey



The Thanksgiving Festival of Choirs, sponsored by the Mozart Club of Connellsville, will take place THIS SUN, NOV 24 at 6pm at Wesley UM Church. This ecumenical Thanksgiving service is open to everyone. Fr. Dan Carr is the principle homilist this year.

"The Accent On-Air" THIS SUN, NOV 24, at 11:30am on WTAE, Channel 4, will include a segment featuring the women of St. Rita Parish and their Fayette County famous Italian knots. If you are not able to see the show this week, it will be broadcast on SUN, DEC 1, at 11:30am Or you can watch "The Accent On-Air" at TheAccentOnline.org.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Annunciata #260 will meet on THU, NOV 26 at 6pm in St. John's Moravick Hall. (Note change in location.) Committee members are Norma Frazier and Carol Johnston. Members are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

Nar-Anon will NOT meet Thanksgiving week.

The Greater Scottdale Area Choral Society will present their Christmas concert series as follows:

SUN, DEC 1 Perryopolis UM Church
MON, DEC 2 Cochran UM Church, Dawson
SUN, DEC 8 St. Pius, Mt. Pleasant
MON, DEC 9 1st Baptist, Scottdale

All concerts start at 7pm and admission is free.

Christian Mothers of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Fairchance, will host a vigilia FRI, DEC 6 at 6pm. A traditional Slovak meal will be served, and the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble will perform. For reservations, call Jean at 564-2641.

St. John Byzantine Catholic Church of Uniontown will hold their Christmas Craft/Bake Sale on SAT, DEC 7, noon-5pm and SUN, DEC 8 10am-1pm in their upstairs hall. Admission is free.

VFW Post #8543 Band of Uniontown will present a Christmas concert on SUN, DEC 8 at the State Theatre, from 3-5pm. Donations of non-perishable food items for the Fayette County Food Bank or new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots will be gratefully accepted.



HOW ONE RECEIVES THE CONSECRATED BREAD AND THE PRECIOUS BLOOD...

The faithful come forward for Communion in the usual way. The

communicant stands in front of the communion minister. The communicant bows his/her head to the consecrated host, the minister says "The Body of Christ" and the communicant answers, "Amen" and receives the host. The communicant then moves to the minister of the cup. The communicant bows his/her head. The minister says, "The Blood of Christ" and the communicant answers, "Amen" and the minister holds out the chalice. For the sake of convenience, communicants may raise the chalice to their mouths themselves. The communicant drinks from the chalice, returns it to the minister, and then returns to his/her pew. The communion minister wipes the outside and inside of the chalice with the purificator. It is also customary to move the chalice a quarter turn after each communicant for the same reason.

This week's bulletin cover picture is from St. John's 100th anniversary celebration, when Fr. Paul was in his first pastorate there. Come and share in God's bounty at this year's Thanksgiving Mass.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MON, NOV 25		ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGIN/MARTYR
8:00am	St. Rita	Martin & Rita Griglak (Children)
8:30am	St. Al	Patty Broderick (Dennis & Rita Martin)
TUE, NOV 26		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. John	Tom Riley (Patty Hensel)
8:30am	St. Al	Anna Marie Chernitsky (Pat & Ann Trimbath)
WED, NOV 27		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. Rita	Carmine V. Anna K. & Anthony A. Molinaro (Margaret R. Molinaro)
8:30am	St. Rita	Adoration until 4:30pm
THU, NOV 28		THANKSGIVING DAY
9:00am	St. John	For the Parishioners
FRI, NOV 29		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. Rita	Joseph & Angeline Canada (Daughter, Rosella Kerns)
8:15am	St. Al	Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:30am	St. Al	Walter Kasunic (The Kasunic Family)
SAT, NOV 30		ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE
4:00pm	St. Rita	Anna Palladino & Paul Palladino (Lynne DeCarlo)
5:00pm	St. Al	John Tomaro (Family)
6:00pm	IC	Robert Collins (Cathie Truitt)
SUN, DEC 1		1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00am	St. Rita	Caesar & Deborah Gasperi (Daughter, Lisa & The Schiavoni Family)
9:00am	St. Al	Pro Populo
9:30am	IC	Rosemary Wallace (Daughter, Roseann & Son, Tom)
11:30am	St. John	Mary Beth Lee (Sister, Cindy)

Altar flowers at St. Rita are in memory of Wife & Mother, Dolores Kristobak, from Husband Joseph & Sons.

Flowers at St. John are in memory of Michael Grego, Mickey Grego & Josephine Shaw, from Family.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - NOV 30				MINISTRY SCHEDULE - DEC 1			
	SR-4PM	ST. AL-5PM	IC-6PM	ST. RITA-8AM	ST. AL-9AM	IC-9:30AM	ST. JOHN-11:30AM
ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	K Callahan K Callahan	C Baldwin C Baldwin	S Spotto N Spotto	E Armstrong S Harbaugh	G Zavatchan G Zavatchan	S Bandemer A Bandemer	E Prestia J Prestia
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	J Lembo G Lembo G McDermott	P Herron K Andolino S Lincoln	P Daniels P Akers J Colvin	C Porter G Bohinski L Lauffer	J Goodwin J Wallace S Smith	E Loyal J Miller B Molitor	E Smith J Kosinski J Speeney
CROSS BEARERS	A Geary	J Trimbath	O Spotto	R Lewandowski	F Vinoverski	D DePaul	D Firestone
LECTORS	G Panzella	T Nedrow	D Mulligan	J Malone	B Martin	S DeSimone	C Petrasun
ROSARY		Volunteer			C Johnston		



I remember learning in school that after the pilgrims landed in the United States they had a “hard winter”. It was only

after living in Rome for a year or two that I realized the extent of that statement.

The understanding of climate and temperature at that time was connected mostly to latitude. Therefore, they would have expected their winters to be a lot more like Rome, where the average January low temperature is 37° not 18°.

“Hard” doesn’t even come close to describing that difference. “Brutal” or “calamitous” would be more accurate.

Most of us have no context at all for what the pilgrims went through – only half of them survived that first winter. We don’t depend upon our own farming efforts to eat and starting fires for heat. I simply drive down to Martins and Sheetz if I’m hungry and turn up the thermostat when I’m cold. Modern conveniences have become not only our norm but also our expectation. When the power goes out, when the shower never warms up, or when I don’t have my umbrella and it’s raining, it can ruin my whole day!

I am so detached from the thankfulness that the pilgrims must have had upon realizing that they were far more prepared for their second winter. They finally had an overabundance of supplies. Their harvest

that year was more than copious – it was cornucopious!

How can we capture that thankfulness this year? Here’s one idea. I want you to stop and think for a second about just one thing that we all use daily and take for granted: the light switch. I push a piece of plastic sticking out from the wall up or down and “let there be light!”

Isn’t that simply marvelous? The pilgrims had to make a fire to have light (and heat) and they took a lot of effort and depended upon weather, fuel, and skill to light them. I learned how to start a fire in Boy Scouts, but even under ideal

Although my thankfulness is detached from that of the pilgrim, they are not entirely disconnected. The fundamental reason for Thanksgiving has not changed.

conditions a fire is an involved, smoky, dirty thing. (Unless it’s in a fireplace. Another thing I take for granted.) If I want to stay up after dark to read (like after 5 PM these days) I don’t have to really work for it at all. Someone else wired my house when it was built and hooked it up to a power source and I just have to pay the electric bill. Someone else invented and manufactured light bulbs with various wattages so I can even control how much light I want at a given moment.

Imagine trying to explain electricity to the pilgrims and imagine how grateful they would be to have it available to them. They would probably be insulted by how much I take it for granted and my lack of

thankfulness for it.

Although my thankfulness is detached from that of the pilgrim, they are not entirely disconnected. The fundamental reason for Thanksgiving has not changed.

God is the source of all for which we are thankful. We are all created as children of God. He gave us all of the good things of this earth and commanded us to hand them on to subsequent generations. He instructed us to subdue the earth, to know and to harness it through science and learning. And if that wasn’t enough, He came and revealed himself to us, first to Abraham and then to all of his descendants, allowing every person

in every age to come to know him deeply and personally. Finally, he came to dwell among us, to teach us, and then to die for us and our sins. This

all we share with the pilgrims of old and share with every people in every place.

At the heart of the spirit of Thanksgiving is a recognition that all of the good things that we have are because God made them and gave them to us for our benefit. Every age can appreciate this truth. On Thanksgiving, we are invited to reflect on the depth of the thankfulness we ought to have, from life itself to simple things like the light switch.

It’s something worth thinking about on Thanksgiving Day. Especially because you’re going to be good for nothing else while you digest all that pie.