

LOOKING THROUGH STAINED GLASS



A Column by Fr. Tom

Thank you, Lord!

As I look back on my life, and especially on these last two-plus years, I realize just how blessed I truly am. I hope that you feel blessed by our Lord as well, for the life that He has given you. I pray that the meditation below will remind you of your blessings and maybe even give you some new reasons to thank God today.

First, let us thank God for creation. He has provided this beautiful world for us to enjoy. In fact, one of the most remarkable aspects of human life is that we get to appreciate beauty in all its forms. We can appreciate the appearance of a rainbow, the smell of a rose, and the sound of a beautiful hymn as it echoes throughout the Church.

Let us thank God for this great country of ours. Sure, throughout our history we have had some difficult circumstances, but we can thank God that we have the freedom to enjoy what we have and the ability to speak up for something better. We can even thank God for the freedom to thank God, in the manner that we choose.

Let us thank God for life itself. God, who is the author of all life, has chosen to give each one of us life. Let us also thank God for the two people, who worked together with God to bring forth our lives. In this world, where some believe that life is a choice, let us be grateful that our parents chose, "Yes" to life.

Let us thank God for our families. We thank

God for our parents, our siblings, and our extended families. Let us thank God for a place we can call home. Let us also thank God for the great friends we have known. Throughout our lives, God puts into our lives people who care for us, support us and challenge us to be better people. From the people who have come into our lives for a reason or a season, to the ones we will love for a lifetime, we are blessed for the happiness they've brought us and the time we've had together.

Finally, let us thank God for our parish family of St. Paul of the Cross. In the nearly 50 years of this parish, the families that make up St. Paul of the Cross have been able to grow closer to one another and closer to God. We have built strong relationships and welcomed new ones. We have shared God's love with one another and with the wider community. Let us thank God for the parish family to which He has called us, and let us thank God for the future we have ahead of us.

May God bless each and every one of you and all the people that you love! May you know His love by sharing His love with one another! May you never tire of counting your blessings, so that you will live a happy life here on earth and have an eternity of peace and love in Heaven! Happy Thanksgiving!

Next week, we will get back to our discussion of the Mass, beginning our exploration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

