



October 2021

Greetings to you,

“I thank God every time I remember you,  
*constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,  
because of your sharing in the Gospel  
from the first day until now.”*

Philippians 1.3-5

With these words, St. Paul greeted the Christian Communities in Philippi. Paul expressed his gratitude so eloquently that he has inspired people for the past 2000 years! Paul’s communities faced persecution, an unknowable future and harsh oversight. Yet, Paul encouraged the people in his care to be thankful in all the situations of life. Not always an easy task.

Thanksgiving in 2021 will be a time of continuing personal pressures and unknowns for us. Certainly, much has gone wrong in our own lives and in the world. Yet we are called to be a people of Thankfulness!

So, while we hold the sorrows and worries of our lives in our hearts, we also look for the good, the gifts God gives us. I think we find that goodness in the people in our lives, the ones who offer a word of love, the ones who notice that

we need food and quietly provide what they can. I am thankful for you, for the many ways our parish has thrived in these months. We have prayed for each other. We have maintained contact, even when that has been difficult. Drives (masked) have been offered and gratefully received. All of these actions and very many more, are part of sharing the Good News of God's love, which is expressed to us in the life and ministry of Jesus. I am thankful because our community has continued to show itself to be a blessing for our neighbours and friends.

When our buildings were closed, we developed new ministries. Through the mysteries of electronics, and the leadership of several of our parishioners, we now have yet another worship opportunity. Our new on-line joint parish worship continues! At 10:30 every Sunday, we broadcast this service and your link can be found in the bulletin we send out weekly. We had a few "kinks" which have now been worked out, but it is a real delight to have folks from St. James and All Saints worshipping together, both on-line and in person. In person, All Saints continues at 9 am and St. James at 10:30 am. Just please remember to phone ahead to reserve your place in the physically distanced congregation.

I am grateful for your prayers and the many ways you demonstrate your support, not only for me but also for our whole community. Your caring really makes a wonderful difference. With thanks to you and for you, and with a thankful heart, I wish you a peaceful Thanksgiving season, and I continue to pray for you as I request that you do for me.

God bless you.

With my love, Joan.

Thanksgiving offerings are gratefully accepted at the church, through our website, by mail (4540 Bank Street, Gloucester, Ontario K1T 3W5) or by bringing it directly to our Treasurer, Mike Thomas. Donations for Thanksgiving Memorial flowers are also being accepted until Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail Glenn Clark at [gbclark@magma.ca](mailto:gbclark@magma.ca) to identify who the memorial is for so that we can publish it in our Thanksgiving bulletin.