



THANKSGIVING HOMILY 2025

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

We heard the familiar gospel of the ten lepers cured and only one comes back to say thanks. Not that the other were not grateful, but they didn't come back and thank Jesus.

I confess that I too don't say thanks enough to the Lord either. Maybe you are like me in that regard.

So, a national holiday reminds me and you to maybe change our perspective a bit.

What I would like to suggest is a change in one letter for this day and make it a lifestyle.

Instead of Thanksgiving, how about thanks living? It's a call to be more grateful. It doesn't deny the fact that at times we will have our struggles and sorrows.

So, where is the thanks living anchored?

Let me propose a possible practice.

It is that we take time in front of a crucifix and say thanks to the Lord and live that thanks. That cross maybe our processional cross – to say thanks right as we begin Mass or at the end as the cross leads us out. It may be a crucifix you have in your home on the wall or on your desk. Maybe it is a cross around your neck that you kiss in the morning and say "thanks."

He didn't have to die for us, but he did. Could we say "thank you" and live that "thank you"?

Or maybe this Advent-Christmas season, it will be saying "thanks" in front of a manger – a nativity scene. He didn't have to be born for us, but he did. Maybe to say "thank you" in front of the manger and living that "thank you" during the day may help us as a disciple of Jesus.

Or maybe it is saying thank you at Eucharistic adoration some Monday evening this Advent at our parish. Jesus didn't have to give us himself in bread and wine to help sustain our lives.

So, on this Thanksgiving, I invite us to thanks living.

No matter our age, it is a simple practice for us to possibly use as a game changer for our lives, because our life will be based more on what the Lord Jesus chose to do for us and it may help us to chose a better way of life for Jesus and the people around us.

Have a great Thanksgiving – a great Thanks living. Amen.