



Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated¹ observed on **Thursday, November 27th** (day number 331 of this calendar year) in the United States. Traditionally, it is a time to give thanks for all the sacrifice and hard work done for the harvest. In modern times, people take time off work (4-day weekend starting Thursday) and spend time with family and

friends over a large feast held on Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving in the early days of the United States was celebrated on a variety of dates. In a 1789 proclamation, President George Washington called on the people of the United States to acknowledge God for affording them “an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness” by observing a day of thanksgiving. Devoting a day to “public thanksgiving and prayer,” as Washington called it, became a yearly tradition in many communities.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. In that year, during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln made his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation. He asked his fellow citizens to “to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise ...”

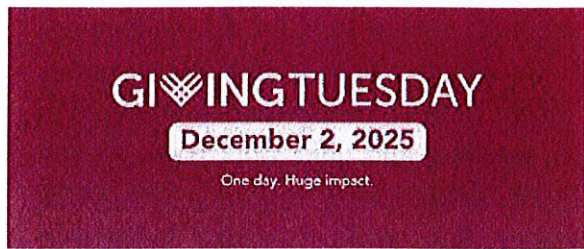
It was not until 1941 that Congress designated the *fourth* Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the day into law, making the day officially celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, thus creating a federal holiday.

However official, the idea of a special day for giving thanks was not born of presidential proclamations. Native American harvest festivals had been celebrated for centuries, and colonial services dated back to the late 16th century. Thanksgiving Day, as we know it today, began in the early 1600s when settlers in both Massachusetts and Virginia came together to give thanks for their survival, for the fertility of their fields, and for their faith. The most widely known early Thanksgiving is that of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, who feasted for three days with the Wampanoag people in 1621.

Turkey has become the traditional Thanksgiving fare because at one time it was a rare treat. During the 1830s, an eight-to ten-pound bird cost a day’s wage. Even though turkeys are affordable today, they remain a celebratory symbol of bounty. In fact, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin ate roast turkey in foil packets for their first meal on the Moon.

Other common Thanksgiving traditions in the United States include volunteering for those less fortunate by donating food or time to homeless shelters or those in need. Many families love watching football or the Macy’s Day Parade. Sometimes, communities hold “turkey trot” runs or parades. The president of the United States and some U.S. governors will often “pardon” one or two Thanksgiving turkeys each year

Around the world: In Canada, they celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. Liberia celebrates the day on the first Thursday of November and Saint Lucia the first Monday in October and finally Grenada celebrates on October 25th each year. Unofficially, countries like Brazil and Germany also celebrate. It is also observed in the Australian territory of Norfolk Island.



Let's transform the world through radical generosity. Join the #GivingTuesday movement and reimagine a world built upon shared humanity and generosity. What if we told you, you are changing the world right now? Would you believe it?

A better future is being built by all of us right now, in the billions of small actions we take each day. Acts of care, love, and understanding extend outward, like the threads of a beautiful tapestry. Whether it's offering a kind smile, a helping hand, or an hour of your time—these acts have a way of rippling out, becoming part of something much greater. That is the power of radical generosity.

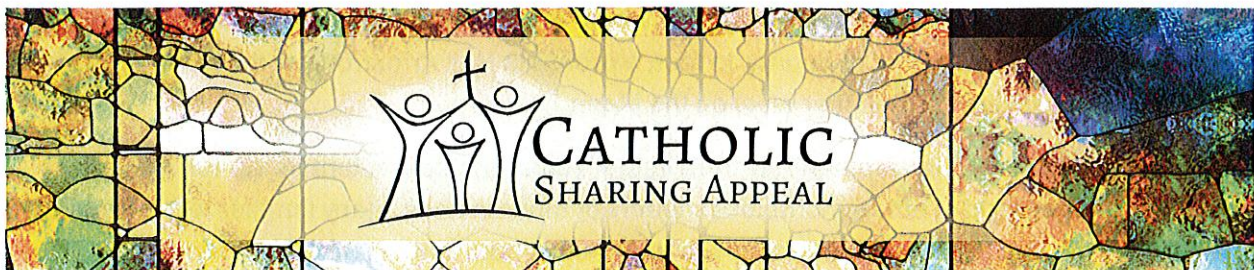
GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Join the movement and give, whether it's some of your time, a donation, or the power of your voice in your local community. It's a simple idea: whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to contribute toward building the better world we all want to live in.

It's more important than it ever has been to show up for our communities.

- Support your local organizations, mutual aid networks, and community organizers
- Do an act of kindness or help a neighbor
- Identify your gifts, pick a cause that gets you fired up, and give back – not just for GivingTuesday but every day.

Share how you're giving on social media with the hashtag #GivingTuesday and inspire others.



There's still time to help our parishes by donating to this year's Catholic Sharing Appeal from which the Diocese will return all contributions above 50% of the assigned goals back to us for projects such as the Rectory Windows.