Saint Francis Village Catholic Chapel

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Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

November 22, 2026

REFLECTIONS

Thanksgiving

This coming Thursday our nation will celebrate the secular holiday known as Thanksgiving, a holiday with a history dating to the beginnings of our country, and modeled in part on mid-17th century Puritan celebrations. Abraham Lincoln declared it an official day of thanks in 1863 but Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1941 when the date for the celebration was established as the fourth Thursday of November. The fundamental truth expressed was a need to give thanks.

There are many people, however, who feel that they have no blessings, that their lives are devoid of reason to give thanks. Sometimes this results from challenges in life, but just as often it happens to people with sufficient financial resources and good health. All seems to depend on one's perspective. Often, it is a negative attitude and not actual fact which can overwhelm us. What is at stake, then, is not so much a lack of material goods as a lack of positive attitude.

If we are honest, every one of us can point to positive and negative realities in our lives. That's life, one might say. But attitude determines how we interpret those realities. We choose to be controlled, positively or negatively, by external events, but this is choice, not something forced upon us. Every one of us can succumb to negative attitudes on occasion. Who gets unconditionally all that they want or feel they need? Life doesn't work that way. But one can choose to be focused through the lens of thanksgiving.

It doesn't help to compare ourselves with others – we become depressed if we appear to have less or smug if we appear to have more than others. Obtaining things never brings happiness. Material things are not evil; rather, it is one's attitude toward things that can lead to sin.

Thanksgiving Day is a secular holiday and although it is possible to view it through a religious lens, I suspect many people will elect to view it just as another holiday. Christians, however, can choose to recognize that blessings are not self-generated but originate with God, beginning with life itself. This Thanksgiving, take time to reflect on and give thanks for your blessings; then choose to share those blessings. That is true thanksgiving!

From Father Ken



Give Thanks to God & Share your Blessings

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ – King of the Universe. The Gospel reading is a quasi-parable. Jesus tells disciples what the resurrection and end times will be like. T*he picture of the blessed events suggests that attaining* heaven has less to do with earning and more to do with a generous heart rooted in gratitude.







This week we close out the liturgical year and next week we begin Advent.

Chapel Worship Opportunities	
Daily Masses	9:00 AM Monday through Friday
Morning Prayers Liturgy of the Word	8:30 AM Monday through Friday
Evening Prayers Divine Mercy Chaplet Liturgy of the Word	3:00 PM Monday through Friday
Eucharistic Adoration	9:30 AM Wednesday 9:30 AM Friday
Catholic Bible Study	1:30 PM Thursday Chapel Building Video Room
Confessions	Following 9:00 AM Mass Friday from 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM
Saturday	5:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sunday Mass	10:00 AM

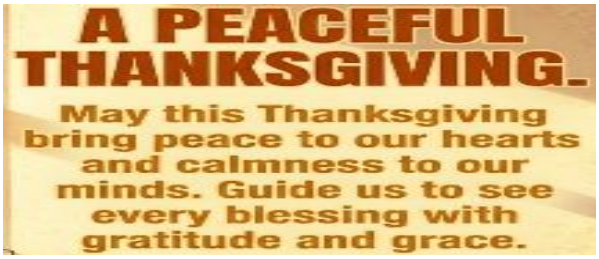
QUIET MINISTRY



Each year the St. Francis Village Catholic Chapel Community engages in a Christmas "giving project". Through the year, the **Chapel Quiet Ministry** responds financially to a variety of requests for assistance from residents in need. This year, please consider donating to the Chapel Quiet Ministry to help ease the *hard seasons* of emergency needs that some our brothers and sisters will encounter. An informational flyer with more details is attached to this bulletin.

With Thanksgiving this Thursday, I would like to share some reflections on ***The Quiet Power of Gratitude***, offered by the Missionary Society of Saint Columban. Thanksgiving is a rare opportunity to slow down and recognize the value of what often goes unnoticed. Gratitude invites us to pause and appreciate simple moments that bring meaning and comfort. It brings about stronger relationships, better communication and healthier emotions. Through gratitude, Our Lord give us *eyes to see and ears to hear.* Thanksgiving reminds us that Life's richest moments are often the simplest ones. A grateful heart helps people see abundance where we might otherwise see only routine, and it transforms everyday experiences into something memorable and deeply human.

May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. God Give You Peace.
Mike Pierson.



Mass Intentions	
Nov. 22, 2026	SFV Catholic Chapel Community
Nov. 23, 2026	Repose of the Soul of John Gomez By Deacon Howard Herring
Nov. 24, 2026	Father Bob Strittmatter
Nov. 25, 2026	Repose of the Soul of Donna Heimerman By SFV Catholic Chapel Community
Nov. 26, 2026	Intentions for William Smith Health Improvement By Bob & Karen Frank
Nov. 27, 2026	Repose of the Soul of John Gomez By Deacon Howard Herring
Nov. 28, 2026	Intentions of Connie Carter By A Friend (5:00 PM Vigil Mass)