

# Thanksgiving Never Ends Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki

At this time of year, our thoughts begin to turn to apple cider, cozy sweaters and raking leaves. Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Almost everyone has one or more Thanksgiving traditions that they hold dear. Besides the traditional family dinner, there’s usually a family tag football game, watching a favorite movie or going on a hike. Also, an extra dab of whipped cream on the pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving is also a wonderful time to start new traditions that reflect our gratitude to God for the bounty he has entrusted to us. We can make this time of year a springboard for living the heart of stewardship by making this day even more special. Here are some suggestions:

• Go to Mass and count your blessings. In your prayer, reflect on three or four qualities or talents you have been blessed with in your life. Then, reflect on how you can best be a “steward” of these gifts, sharing them with others.

• Write “I’m thankful for you” cards and give them to family members and friends. E-mail works, too! Even a short note of appreciation can go a long way.

• Share your thanksgiving meal with someone who is alone this year. Look for a neighbor, coworker, fellow parishioner, college student or armed services personnel who may be separated from family, and ask them to join you.

• Help someone. Extend your generosity and blessings beyond your immediate family and friends. Be part of an adopt-a-family effort, distribute food baskets or serve dinner at a shelter.

• Take a hike. Find a place to enjoy God’s gift of creation. Invite others to share the experience and the wonders of nature.

• Most importantly, focus on the things you are most grateful for – the things you most appreciate about your life, yourself and others, and remember the Source of all gifts.

Thanksgiving Day is every day in the heart of a faithful steward. After all, life itself is a gift – every day, every minute, every breath. For good stewards, gratitude is a state of being, a daily response, a gift of grace. This Thanksgiving Day, let us ask God to bless us with hearts buoyant with thanksgiving each and every day of our lives.

Have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving!