

Homily Summary - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Main Themes:

- Gratitude for the many blessings we receive in life, particularly during Thanksgiving, and a deeper reflection on wisdom, love, and happiness in God.
- The First Reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that wisdom is more valuable than gold, silver, health, or beauty. True wisdom, which comes from God, guides us to make the best decisions, helping us prioritize eternal treasures over worldly ones.

Key Scripture Passages:

- **Wisdom 7:7-11:** Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God gave him wisdom that surpasses all earthly treasures. The passage teaches us that wisdom is more valuable than material wealth.
- **Mark 10:17-30:** The story of the rich young man emphasizes the need for wisdom in making choices that lead us closer to God. Jesus invited him to sell what he had, give to the poor, and follow Him.

Reflection on God's Love and Happiness:

- The rich young man had much to be thankful for—wealth, health, and wisdom. But without opening himself to God's love and guidance, he couldn't find true happiness.
- True happiness comes from following God and being filled with His love. This is why Jesus says, "I came that you may have joy to the full" (John 10:10). God wants us to be happy, not just with worldly blessings but with the joy that comes from knowing and loving Him.
- When we take time to reflect on our blessings, whether material or spiritual, we must ask ourselves if they are helping us grow closer to God or becoming obstacles in our relationship with Him.

The Call to Let Go of Lesser Goods:

- Jesus' saying, "It is harder for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God than for a camel to enter the eye of a needle," teaches us to detach from worldly possessions. He refers to a city gate called "the eye of a needle," symbolizing the difficulty of entering Heaven when burdened with material goods.
- What matters most is that we use our blessings to help us grow closer to God and to love others.
- As the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, "everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13).

Practical Wisdom for Thanksgiving:

- As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for both the spiritual and material blessings we have, but also ask for the wisdom to ensure these blessings help us stay close to God.
- Gratitude and prayerful reflection are key to aligning our lives with God's love and purpose, helping us find peace and happiness in both this life and the next.

Mary's Example:

- Mary, in her wisdom, opened herself completely to God's love. She said "yes" to God's plan, and now all generations call her "blessed," or "happy." Her example teaches us to respond with wisdom and openness to God's love and guidance in our lives.

Connection to the Sacraments:

- When we go to Confession or receive the Eucharist, we are reminded of God's love for us and His desire to fill us with joy and peace. These sacraments bring us closer to God and renew us in His grace.

Reflection Questions:

- Are we using the blessings we've received to grow closer to God, or are they distractions in our relationship with Him?
- How can we, like Mary, say "yes" to God's plan for our lives, allowing Him to fill us with His love and joy?

Rap Summary: On Thanksgiving we gather, giving thanks with cheer,

For blessings and wisdom that draw us near.

The rich young man, with wealth and pride,

Couldn't open himself to let perfect joy from God inside.

But Jesus showed him the way to be free,

Be wise, loving, and happy—let go of your possessions, come follow Me.

Mary said yes, with wisdom and grace,

Now she's in Heaven, in God's embrace.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>