St. Barnabas Catholic Church, THANKSGIVING DAY 11/28, 2019 Yr C HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THANKSGIVING!

SO,,, AS WE GATHER TOGETHER WITH OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TODAY,,, LET'S ALWAYS REMEMBER TO GIVE GOD,, MANY,, "THANKS & PRAISE" FOR HIS COUNTLESS BLESSINGS.

WE LIVE IN A WONDERFUL,,, AND TRULY BLESSED COUNTRY,, AND ALL TO OFTEN,,, IT CAN BECOME EASY,,, TO FORGET WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US. WITH OUR "BUSY-NESS" & "OUR TIGHT SCHEDULES",, IT'S EASY TO FORGET,, OR TO SIMPLY OVERLOOK,, THE MANY BLESSINGS OF GOD!

AND THAT'S A SAD "OVERSIGHT" ON OUR PART.

FOR WHATEVER REASON,,, TO MANY OF WE HUMANS HAVE DEVELOPED A HABIT TO FORGET!

HERE'S A HARD,,, AND TIMELESS EXAMPLE: ON SEPTEMBER THE 1ST,,, 1923,,, JAPAN WAS ROCKED WITH A 7.9 MAGNITUDE SCALE EARTHQUAKE,,, CALLED THE KANTO QUAKE.

IT WAS ONE OF THE WORST EARTHQUAKES IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY. IT GENERATED A TOWERING 40' TSUNAMI THAT SWEPT AWAY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN JUST A FEW SECONDS.

IN YOKOHAMA ALONE,,, OVER 100,000 PEOPLE WERE KILLED OR MAIMED,,, AND OUT OF ALL THIS DEATH AND DAMAGE,,, THERE CAME A FRANTIC PLEA FOR "HELP",, FROM THE JAPANEESE GOVERNMENT.

BROTHERS & SISTERS,,, WE AMERICANS RESPONDED BY SENDING WHOLE FLEETS OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO THE STRICKEN NATION.

THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN CABLED WASHINGTON D.C., WITH THIS PROMISE:

"AMERICA,,, WE WILL NOT FORGET!"

YET,,, ONLY 18 YEARS LATER,,, ON DECEMBER 7, 1941,,,
"JAPAN HAD FORGOTTEN!" WHEN THE PACIFIC SKY
OVER PEARL HARBOR,,, WAS FILLED WITH WAR
PLANES,,, FROM THAT SAME JAPAN! YES,,,

"JAPAN HAD FORGOTTEN!"

ON THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED,,, HE ASKED HIS FOLLOWERS TO OBSERVE COMMUNION,, THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD,,, AS HIS BODY WOULD SOON BE BROKEN,,, FOR US,,, AND THE DRINKING OF THE CUP,,, REPRESENTING HIS BLOOD,,, THAT WOULD SOON BE SHED,,, FOR US.

JESUS SAID:

DO THIS,,, IN REMEMBRENCE OF ME.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET,,,
THE HORORS OF THE CROSS AT CALVARY!

THE CONCERNS OF OUR DAILY AND ORDINARY LIVES,,, CAN CAUSE THE MEMORIES OF GOLGATHA TO FADE FROM OUR CONSCIOUS AWARENESS,,, AND WE CAN NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.

TODAY,,, IS THANKSGIVING DAY,,, AND,,, AS WE ARE BLESSED ENOUGH,,, TO CELEBRATE THIS AMAZING FEAST DAY,,, WITH OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,,, IN THIS WONDERFUL AND TRULY BLESSED COUNTRY,, LET US REMEMBER TO GIVE THANKS,,, FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS TODAY,,, AND IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES,,, ESPECIALLY,,, FOR WHAT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DID FOR US,,, ON THE CROSS.

LET US REJOICE AND BE A THANKFUL FOR THE MANY BLESSINGS THAT HAVE BEEN BESTOWED UPON US.

MY BELOVED,,, I PRAY THAT YOU ALL WILL HAVE A BLESSED,,, SAFE AND BOUNTIFUL THANKSGIVING.

+++AMEN+++

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