

THANKSGIVING DAY 2017

HOMILY – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

FATHER CRAIG LOONEY

St. James 1.16 St. Matthew 6.25



All good gifts and perfect presents come to us from God...the Creator of the heavenly lights...he is the source of everything we have...our life...our health...our food.

It is our basic duty to share our good gifts and perfect presents with those who have little...with those who have nothing. If we do not take this duty seriously...as Saint James tells us...our faith is self-serving and fraudulent.

Our faith in Jesus calls us to take action. We must not just talk the talk...we must walk the walk. We must show love and compassion toward others...the visceral kind of love and compassion James calls true and genuine religion...that comes from the heart.

James also gives us some practical advice on how we should conduct ourselves...whether in church or going about our daily routines:

- Think before we say something hurtful...it might come back at us.
- Don't get upset and angry so easily...nothing good will come of it.
- Look in the mirror...what do we see...just our reflection...take a look at what is in our heart.

Since God gives us good gifts and perfect presents all the time...we should not spend so much time worrying about things over which we have no control...like tomorrow.

We cause ourselves unnecessary stress and anxiety worrying about our material possessions. Jesus tells us to deal with what we have to deal with today...we should thank God for giving us guidance to resolve today's challenges...tomorrow will bring its own challenges.

Jesus tells us to call God our Father...*Abba...Papa...Daddy!* Far from being disrespectful...Jesus wants us to approach God in the same personal, intimate way he does.

Jesus tells us to ask God for the things we need to live...because he expects us to do so. Jesus is asking us to trust God to take care of our material needs in the way that will benefit us the most.

The Thanksgiving Day hymn we just sang talks about planting seeds...asking God to send the right amount of sun and rain...so the seeds will grow into healthy plants...and when the time is right they get harvested...and the harvest will be great.

Thanksgiving Day is the good and perfect transition from the Trinity Season and the time we spend growing spiritually...to the Advent Season and the time we prepare for the First Coming of Jesus on Christmas Day...and our hope and expectation for his Second Coming when the time is right...when he will come back to harvest us! And we want that harvest to be great!

Today we thank God for the good gifts and perfect presents he has given us...and ask him to provide for us and for all people in the future...according to their needs.

Let's also take this time to thank God for all his love...and share our good gifts and perfect presents and love with others.

