

Church of the Good Shepherd  
and  
St. John the Evangelist

Thanksgiving Service  
November 22, 2006

**“Thanksgiving 2006”**

One day Jesus and his disciples are walking through the Galilean countryside when 10 lepers approach. The people are afraid, but Jesus stands his ground. “What do you want of me?” he asks them.

“Master that we may be made clean,” they reply. Jesus reaches out and touches them. He instructs them to go show themselves to the priest in the town according to Jewish law.

Some time later one of the lepers who has been cured returns and falls at Jesus’ feet in gratitude. Jesus turns to his disciples and says to them: “Did I not heal ten lepers, but only this man returns, where are the other nine?”

The lesson that Jesus teaches is the lesson that we too need to be aware of in our dealings with God. The last year has been full of graces in this church. We have been blessed with healing, and new members, and so many opportunities to bring the gospel out into this community.

Thanksgiving and this service is our opportunity to give thanks to God. It is important to us that we do so, not because we are superstitious that God will not continue to bless us, but because the love that God shows us on a daily basis deserves our love esteem and response in return.

Twelve months ago Franklyn, Lillian and Paul were still with us.

Towards the end Franklyn told me that he was dying and he didn’t mind because he wanted to be with his Helen. I told him that just because he was dying didn’t mean that he was finished working for us. “We had a pipe organ to pay for and I expect you to take care of us once you get up there.” Franklyn laughed at that.

So many good things have happened in the year that I am in no doubt that with Lillian and Paul he is there pulling strings for us.

This year we have much to thank God for particularly the recovery of Karl, Richard, Gregory, Eileen, Pat Keel, Sandy, Lucie, Katherine after her eye operations and many more.

We received another gift in the arrival of Owen Ruzanski and all the other baptisms we had in the year. We were blessed by new parishioners, Al and Bonnie, Beverly and Tom and many more.

The Rev. William J. McGinty, Rector  
110 West Catharine Street, Milford, Pennsylvania 18337  
Phone: (570) 296-8123 ♦ Fax: (570) 296-4383

Church of the Good Shepherd  
and  
St. John the Evangelist

In this Eucharist we stop to thank our God resolved as we are to use his resources to the best of our ability in the coming year. Personally, I am thankful for the Vestry, the congregation, our parish secretaries, Linda and Beverly, the Child Care Center, our food pantry, the prison ministry, the prayer chain, the Daughters of the King, our acolytes, the Altar guild, our ushers, all who read or chalice bear and our pastoral ministry to the sick.

Let us pray:

God our Father, we thank you that through your grace we have grown in your gospel message.

We thank you for your bounty, your blessings and your love.

We ask you to continue to bless our families and friends and all associated with this place.

This we ask thru' Christ our Lord.

Amen+

The Rev. William J. McGinty, Rector  
110 West Catharine Street, Milford, Pennsylvania 18337  
Phone: (570) 296-8123 ♦ Fax: (570) 296-4383