

PASTOR'S COLUMN—JANUARY 4, 2016

Dear Parishioners:

With a New Year, hopefully we are thankful for 2015 with its many experiences lingering in our memory. To be thankful is foundational to our faith journey as Jesus' disciples because God gift's us abundantly. In particular, we need to be thankful to God for every circumstance we came upon in 2015, including the things that we classify as real pains and difficulties. To be thankful for the messes of 2015? On the faith level the answer is "Yes" because no matter what we went thru last year, all is well right now in God's faithful oneness with us in Christ the Savior.

Eucharist means "to give thanks" all the time for the Holy Communion we share with Christ in His Body and Blood. This does not imply that we have to be constantly saying out loud "thank you" to God; however, we need to thank God with our constant faithfulness to God. Because God is constantly one with us through Christ His Son, we simply need to be silent within ourselves and observe how thanks flows out of us to God and Neighbor. No litany of "thank you" to God but rather, faithfulness to the weekly Eucharist deepens our being faithful to God all the time. To be one with Christ is to be thankful to Christ because Christ's saving love makes all well no matter what circumstances we have encountered, will encounter or are presently encountering. This is the cornerstone of our faith journeys and it cannot be verbalized with enough "thank you" statements, but it can be pondered in silence in our depths in the light of the "to give thanks" Eucharistic experience.

Faithfulness and thankfulness are one in our Holy Communion with Christ Jesus. As a result, we can reflect on 2015 in peace and embrace 2016 with peace, letting go of trying to classify each experience as thank-worthy or not. The Good News in Christ is that every experience of life is thank-worthy in God's constant, all-providing faithfulness. Happy New Year!

Thankful for all in Christ,

Fr. Terry