



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 4 Vol. 3 | November 6, 2023 | Student Edition

### BLESSED MARY ANGELA SAYS: (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

*"Preserve among yourselves a unity, peace, love, and kindness. Practice towards one another gentleness, understanding and cooperation".*

#### CATHOLIC Q&A

What is a "Just War?"

Click [here](#) for the answer

#### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

11/01: All Saint's Day - Christian  
11/02: All Soul's Day - Christian  
11/12: Birth of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i  
11/15: Nativity Fast ends - Orthodox Christian  
11/21: Yule/Winter Solstice - Neo Pagan  
11/24: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur - Sikh  
11/26: Day of the Covenant - Baha'i  
11/28: Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha - Baha'i



### A NOVEMBER TO NOTE!

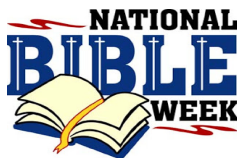
November 1-30: Native American Heritage Month - click [here](#) to learn more.



November 11: Veteran's Day - click [here](#) to learn more



November 14-18 - National Bible Week - Take the Bible Week Student Trivia Quiz - Win Prizes! Check your emails!



November 17: Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service at 11:15 am Recital Hall



November 21: Felician Sisters Founders Day, click [here](#) to learn more!



### FOURS WAYS TO BRING THANKSGIVING INTO YOUR LIFE

from [beliefnet.com](#)

Thanksgiving is a great holiday because it involves two of everyone's favorite things - eating and family. Sometimes we can get caught up with the hustle and bustle in life. There are several ways we can slow down and enjoy this joyous holiday. Here are five ways to bring THANKS giving into your life.

#### Color:

Surround yourself with the fall colors. Oranges, reds and browns help lift our fall spirits and prepare us for the great Thanksgiving holiday. The colors will help evoke your positivity and love for the season. So add some candles around the house, use a colorful fall tablecloth or display pumpkins throughout. The abundance of the fall aurora will help get you ready for the holiday.

#### Be Thankful:

Voice your thanks whether it's telling others what you're thankful for or writing it down. Encourage your children or other family members to partake in the thankful festivities by writing the reasons why they're thankful and displaying them on a Thanksgiving tree or a Thanksgiving jar. Then during Thanksgiving dinner everyone can read the precious notes and feel spiritually rejuvenated.

#### Enjoy Nature:

Go for a walk or just sit out on your porch. Admire the beautiful brown, orange and red leaves. Breathe in the crisp fall air. You can sip warm hot chocolate or apple cider as you admire the fallen acorns and nature that surrounds you.

#### Help Others:

Donate canned goods to your local food banks or adopt a family and cook Thanksgiving dinner for them. Thanksgiving is all about being thankful and giving, there is no better way to celebrate thankfulness other than giving back to others who are less fortunate. There are many organizations who will even accept donated turkeys; so if you are blessed with an extra turkey contact your local food bank or church to seek ways to donate it to families in need.

## OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for  
Human Dignity



Compassion



TRANSFORMATION



Solidarity with  
People in Need



Justice  
and Peace

2023-2024 Focus

## TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY A VILLA COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

### St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

by Matthew Helminski, Class of '25, PTA

This organization was founded by Amy Betros who is from Yugoslavia and Norm Paolini who is from Buffalo, NY. A glimpse of history on Amy, is she owned a restaurant in Yugoslavia which she served customers and in the back door, she would feed the homeless and less fortunate. She wanted to make sure, that no one was left without a meal and go hungry. In her suburban home, she would open up her doors to prostitutes, the homeless, the mentally ill and addicts. She would feed and clothe them as well. Norm also was on fire for the Lord and wanted to carryout good works for the Lord. While on a pilgrimage trip, God had placed the both of them in the right place at the right time, so the both of them would meet each other. This would lead to a lifelong friendship between the both of them. At this time, the both of them had shared their visions and they were determined to make it happen. Amy had sold her restaurant and used her finances, along with Norm who had taken an early retirement. They had also raised money, so that their dream would become reality. Both of these individuals had one mission in mind and soon doors began to open for Amy and Norm. God had used Bishop Grosz, to inform both Amy and Norm that the St. Luke's Church was for sale at the time. With the assistance of Bishop Grosz and the Lord, it had all fallen into place and soon the St. Luke's Mission of Mercy organization was born on August 1st, 1994. Their mission statement of meeting the needs of the less fortunate and spreading the good news of Jesus, has positively impacted the lives of many. They are still continuing to meet the basic needs of all human beings by providing food, clothing, love and support. We also have Villa Maria College students, volunteering their time on the first Friday of each month. During this time, students assist in the packaging of both lunch and dinner meals, which will be distributed to the community. They also offer their help where needed. Through the generous support of volunteers, they are distributing an average of 2,000 meals per day. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated. The address of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy is located at 325 Walden Ave, Buffalo, NY 14221.

<https://www.stlukesmissionofmercy.org/>



## THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER 23, 2023 Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baha'i: O Thou kind Lord! This gathering is turning to Thee. These hearts are radiant with Thy love. These minds and spirits are exhilarated by the message of Thy glad tidings. Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity, to promulgate the Greatest Peace, to become thereby most glorious and praiseworthy among all the nations of the world. Make it precious and near to Thee through Thy bounty and bestowal.

Buddhism: Expressions of gratitude to repay the kindness of the Buddhas whose words open the door to liberation, to our mothers for their boundless love, and to our enemies for assisting us in developing patience: What way is there to repay the Buddha who grant immeasurable benefit and who befriends the world without pretension other than by pleasing sentient beings?

Christianity: Father all-powerful, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite; as we come before you on Thanksgiving Day with gratitude for your kindness, open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child, so that we may share your gifts in loving service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Islam: Praise be to Allah who created us from His light with His hand and dignified us over His creatures and made us trustees of His creation and His revelation. The command of Allah has come, do not rush it. Glory be to Him; exalted above what they associate. Allah is with those who are righteous and those who are virtuous.

Judaism: We thank You that You are Adonai our God and God of our ancestors throughout all time. You are the Rock of our lives, the Shield of our salvation in every generation. We thank you and speak your praises for our lives that are in Your hand, for our souls that are in Your charge, for Your miracles that are with us, and for Your wonders and Your gifts that are with us at all times—evening, morning, and noon.

Native American: Great and Eternal Mystery of Life, Creator of All Things, I give thanks for the beauty You put in every single one of Your creations. I am grateful that You did not fail in making every stone, plant, creature, and human being a perfect and whole part of the Sacred Hoop. I am grateful that You have allowed me to see the strength and beauty of All My Relations.

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



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*Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry*

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