

+ Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin+

Jesus, I Trust in You!

Divine Mercy Rectory, 2267 Main St., (413) 283-6030

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Hall, (413) 283-4320

Three Rivers, Mass.

Rev. Stefan Niemczyk, pastor

Pastoral Staff:

Parish Council president: John Yurkunas

Religious Education director: Jean Brigham

Organists: Mark Narreau, Mary Besko

Secretary: Lydia McKee

Sacristans: Michael Wostena, Maryann Wostena

Custodian: John Dziedzic

Office hours: Mon. & Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Email address: stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com

Website: www.churchofdivinemercy.org

Confessions: Sat, 3:00 p.m. (also before daily Mass)

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the rectory to make arrangements

Schedule of Holy Masses:

The Lord's Day ---

Vigil on Sat., 4:00, 5:15 p.m.

Sun., 8:00 a.m. (Polish), 9:30 a.m.

Daily (except Tues.), 7:00 a.m.

Tues., 5:30 p.m. with B.V.M. Novena

Holydays: as announced

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wed., 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sat., 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sick calls: anytime

New, But Rich in Tradition:

A Brief Overview of Divine Mercy Parish

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish was founded in 1905 to serve the needs of Polish immigrants. **St. Adalbert Parish**, Bondsville, began as a mission of Sts. Peter & Paul in 1910, was erected a parish in its own right in 1917, and closed in 2004. **St. Anne Parish** was founded in 1882 to serve the needs of French Canadian immigrants. By a decree of the Bishop of Springfield issued on Nov. 23, 2009, Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Anne were merged to form **Divine Mercy Parish**. With its combination of a typical New England exterior and a beautiful Baroque interior, Sts. Peter & Paul Church is the designated worship place for Divine Mercy.

November 23, 2014

Feast of Jesus Christ the Universal King (Roman Rite, ordinary form)

Last Sunday after Pentecost (Roman Rite, extraordinary form)

Divine Mercy Parish Bulletin ~ Vol. 1 No. 12 / Nov. 23, 2014

Telephone Numbers: RECTORY (283-6030) Mark Narreau (583-8541) Jean Brigham (283-4232)
Items for bulletin must be submitted by Tues. morning for publication in the next Sunday's issue.
Thank you! All submitted items are subject to editorial discretion and may or may not be used.

N.B.: The *Parish Bulletin* is currently in transition. Some issues, or a part of them, may not be available online until further notice. *Thank you for your patience and understanding.*

The Most Blessed Sacrament ~ ~ ~

The Most Blessed Sacrament is reserved in our church, located in the tabernacle on the High Altar, beneath the statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. We ask that you maintain a respectful silence when you are in the church. This is especially important before and after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Your reverent attitude is not only an example for all, but is respectful of those who are praying. *Thank you!*

Parish Events This Week in *November*

Sun., Nov. 23rd

Religious Education classes, grades 6-11, 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., parish hall

Chalice of Strength Prayers for Priests & Vocations, 4:00 p.m., church

Mon., Nov. 24th

Rosary for World Peace, 4:00 p.m., church

Wed., Nov. 26th

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 7:00 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe Room.

Thurs., Nov. 27th ~ THANKSGIVING DAY

Holy Mass – 10 a.m. (blessing of wine, bread, food); **NO ADORATION in church TODAY.**

Fri., Nov. 28th

NO ADORATION in church TODAY.

Sat., Nov. 29th

NO ADORATION in church TODAY.

No Religious Education classes, grades K-5 ~ *Thanksgiving break.*

Confessions, 3:00 p.m., church

Mother of Mary Prayer Force

If anyone would like their intentions prayed for by a dedicated group of parishioners, please email them to jmjdrsr2007@yahoo.com. We have a network of prayer warriors who will pray for you.

Apostles of Prayer

If you're requesting prayers for anyone or you'd like to join the Prayer Line, please call Cindy Leveillee @ 283-7836.

Palmer Food Share

Please continue to assist with your donations to the Food Share program. You may drop off donations in the baskets located in the church. *Thank you for your generosity!*

NEW PARISHIONERS

If you have questions, or are considering joining our parish, *you are most welcome!* Please see Father after Mass or contact the rectory during regular office hours.

Masses & Devotions This Week

Praised be Jesus Christ! Niech bedzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Laudetur Iesus Christus!

Vigil of Sunday

- 4:00 p.m. +Alexander & Bertha Niemiec – int. of their daughter Irene & Carl
+Edwin Olearczyk – int. of his wife Lillian & family
5:15 p.m. +Stephen & Florida Bigos – int. of the Bigos family
+Corinne Raymond – int. of Claire & Sue Rebello

23. Sunday ~ Jesus Christ the Universal King; Last Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Michael i Maryi Wojnilowicz – od syn Michael z rodzina
9:30 a.m. +Louise Tippet – int. of Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality
+Jeannett Santos – int. of her husband & family

24. Monday ~ Sts. Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, & companions, martyrs

- 7:00 a.m. +Fran Gola – int. of the Rudnick family

25. Tuesday ~ St. Catherine of Alexandria, virgin & martyr

- 5:30 p.m. Novena & Mass: +Edward Strempek –int. of his wife

26. Wednesday ~ feria

- 7:00 a.m. +Mary Lague – Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality

27. Thursday ~ Thanksgiving Day (U.S.A.)

- 9:00 a.m. in thanksgiving to God for blessings received during this past year

28. Friday ~ feria

- 7:00 a.m. +za dusze zmarlych wspomnianych w wypominkach / souls in purgatory

29. Saturday ~ Blessed Virgin Mary

- 7:00 a.m. +Mary Lague – int. of Marion Kozlik

Vigil of Sunday

- 4:00 p.m. +John & Sophie Mastalerz – int. of their daughter Ruth & family
+Mildred Janulewicz – int. of Nancy Morris
5:15 p.m. +Czeslaw Wojtowicz – int. of his family
+Mario & Maria Sorgy – int. of Lydia Tanne

30. Sunday ~ First Sunday in the Advent Season

- 8:00 a.m. za d.sp. Kazimierz i Jozefa Wasiuk – od corki Leokadji z rodzina
9:30 a.m. +Casimir Kusek – int. of Pauline Czajka & family
+Pearl Coyer, 1st anniversary – int. of her children

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Please refer to the front cover for the hours of Adoration.

Since 1996, our parish has been blessed to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed for the Adoration of the faithful. However, the Blessed Sacrament cannot be exposed in the monstrance on the altar unless one is willing to sacrifice one (1) hour. *Will you be that person?? Time spent with God is never time wasted!* If you would like to substitute or commit to a specific hour in this important ministry of prayer, **please contact Diana Roth @ 283-8709. We need your help. God is never outdone in generosity!**

PRAY FOR PRIESTS/DEACONS ~ Each day of the month is set aside to pray for a specific priest or deacon. *Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.*

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| Fr. Leo Hoar | Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski | Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC | Fr. John Touhey |
| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| Fr. Michael Wood | Fr. Mark Stelzer | Fr. Mieczyslaw Wit, OFM.Conv. | |

School of Religious Education *NEWS*

Please refer to PARISH EVENTS THIS WEEK, page 2, for class days & times.

We ask that parents faithfully send their children to these important classes on our Catholic Faith, and that the whole family regularly attend Sunday Mass (or Saturday Vigil). Any questions or for more information, contact Jean Brigham (283-4232).

LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS DONATIONS ~ Like last year, **students will be bringing donations** for the Lion Club Christmas baskets. **Parishioners who would like to donate are also welcome!** Also being collected: inexpensive toys for children under ten and non-perishable food items.

Please bring your donations to the parish hall **Sat. or Sun. mornings during CCD hours.** Bins will be set up there **until 12 noon on Dec. 7th.** The Lions Club will pick up the baskets on either Dec. 8th or 9th. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

Donations to the Parish

The Parish gratefully acknowledges the following donation: Bog Zaplac!

To the General Fund –

\$100 in thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for a personal favor received from Natalie Noble

\$25 in loving memory of **+Antoinette Tenczar** from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rolla

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY ON MONDAYS

The **Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality** continues to pray the **Rosary on each Monday at 4:00 p.m.** in church (until further notice). Please come and pray for world peace and the protection for our citizens and nation.

All are welcome!

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!

Sts. Peter & Paul Rosary Sodality *Craft Fair*

SINCERE THANKS to all those who helped make the 30th annual ***Craft Fair*** a success. Thanks to: Charlene Schultz (advertising), Kitchen crew (Cheryl Kozlik, Marian Kozlik, Julia Kozlik, Deb O'Connor, Charlene Czaja), raffle ticket & *Oplatki* sellers (Barbara Miskiewicz, Ruth Jamrog, Sally Mastalerz, Irene Grzywna, Alice Losaw, Joanne Stolar), to the "best bakers in Western Mass."! And to all who assisted in any way with their time & talent.

Thanksgiving Day is this coming Thursday, Nov. 27th. As in recent years, **Holy Mass will be offered in our church on Thanksgiving at 9:00 a.m.** Please remember to bring a loaf of bread, bottle of wine, or other food item to be blessed and which you may wish to share at your Thanksgiving meal. ***Come & thank God for your blessings!***

"Mission of Sisters of St. Joseph in Love & Service with Dear Neighbors"

Julia Kozlik has been an active parishioner (Rosary Sodality, teaching CCD, lecturing). She has been chosen as **one of 20 delegates to travel to Villa El Salvador with Regis College** this coming spring break. As a senior nursing student, Julia will be learning/serving in Peru clinics. As a fundraising effort, she will be selling golabki with her family & accepting donations. *Your monetary, and especially prayer, support is appreciated!*

((((((((("EVENTS/NOTICES AROUND TOWN"))))))))

THE SINGING PRIESTS

The ***Singing Priests*** of the Diocese of Springfield will present a concert welcoming our new Ordinary, the Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski on **Fri., Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m.** at Bellamy Middle School. Tickets on sale now. For more information, call (413) 452-0645.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Turners Falls

The annual ***St. Nicholas Christmas Bazaar*** will be held on **Sat., Dec. 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the church hall, 84 K St., Turners Falls. Christmas crafts & gifts; religious goods; bake sale; Polish food sale (pierogi); gifts from Poland; tag sale; giant raffles, & more! If you'd like to rent a table, please call Shirley Webb @ (413) 773-7202.

((((((((("EVENTS/NOTICES AROUND TOWN"))))))))

Felician Sisters, Enfield, Conn.

The Felician Sisters, Our Lady of the Angels Convent, 1315 Enfield St. (route 5), Enfield, invite you to attend their **last pre-CHRISTMAS FAIR** on **Sat., Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The day will include: games of chance, purchase of handmade items, & homemade food & bread-*Babka*; TURKEY BINGO between 1 & 3 p.m. To benefit elderly and infirm Felician Sisters. For more information, call Sister Joan Marie Swierzb, CSSF @ (860) 745-7791.

St. Michael Cathedral: Benefit Concert

The 7th Annual **Show Your Heart Concert** to benefit the Open Pantry Community Services will be held on **Sat., Nov. 22nd at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Michael Cathedral, State St., Springfield. Performing will be Spectrum A *Capella* Ensemble from the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School, the Greater Westfield Choral Association, pianist Catherine Lupien, and the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults. Free will offering (suggesting donation of \$10; seniors & students, \$7). For more information: (413) 452-0845 or worship@diospringfield.org

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale & Lottery Calendar Sale

Fundraiser sponsored by Friends of the Palmer Senior Center **Annual Christmas Homemade Cookie Sale: \$7.00** (large box) **and \$5.00** (small box) Call to place your order by Dec. 19, 283-2670. Orders over two boxes must be prepaid (Palmer Council on Aging, 1029 Central St., Palmer, Mass.). Orders can be picked up on Dec. 22 after 1:00 p.m. or Dec. 23 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. / **Lottery calendar** cost: **\$5.00** (only 500 will be sold).

Irish Cultural Center

Information session on Spring Tour to Ireland visiting Dingle & Galway from May 5-14, 2015. Please join us on **Sun., Nov. 23 at 2:00 p.m.**, Dooley Campus Center, Elms College, room 207. The Irish Cultural Center's Rose Baker is partnering with Brian & Steve O'Brien to host the trip. Find out more about this 10-day visit to Ireland's two historic treasures.

Children in Church

A boy was watching his uncle, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me," said the priest.

"Oh...", the boy nodded. "Then why do you keep crossing things out?"

April 2015 Haiti Plunge Mission Trip

Faith Przybycien, high school parishioner, has been selected to participate with a team of 12 youth & advisors from the diocese (April 2015). They will work in reforestation & erosion control, education & recreational programs in HASWEP cooperative. Participants must raise \$1650 (cost of trip) by recruiting sponsors. If you'd like to be a sponsor, please complete the form below and mail directly to Haiti Plunge, Inc. For more information: www.thehaitiplunge.org or The Haiti Plunge on Facebook.

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~HAITI PLUNGE SCHOLARSHIP FORM~

I would like to contribute to Faith Przybycien's mission trip. /Enclosed is my donation of \$_____

Donor's name (please print) _____

Address _____

Mail to: Haiti Plunge, Inc., P.O. Box 745, North Adams, MA 01247

MEDITATIONS

As for purgatory, I do not fear it. I am sorry to have deserved it because it has only been by offending God; but since I do deserve it, I am glad to go there to satisfy His justice as rigorously as possible even to the day of judgment. I know the torments are great, but I know that they honor God and that in purgatory I shall be sure of never opposing God's will and of never complaining of the severity of His justice but of loving it and waiting patiently until it is entirely satisfied.

~Saint Claude de la Colombiere (spiritual director of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque)

One tradition holds that the tree of life in the garden of Eden was the olive tree. In the Mediterranean world of the Bible, its fruit provided food, and oil for light, heat, and healing. Mary bore the One Who is the light of the world and the healing of the nations.

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS

The Sacrament of Charity

Part 8 – Continuing our series of excerpts from *the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS* (Feb. 22, 2007) by **Pope Benedict XVI**. These inspired words can be a source of meditation in preparation for Holy Mass, and/or as a thanksgiving after Holy Mass.

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS... from **Part II:**

#49. By its nature the Eucharist is the sacrament of peace. At Mass this dimension of the Eucharistic mystery finds specific expression in the sign of peace. Certainly this sign has great value (cf.: John 14:27).....We can thus understand the emotion so often felt during the sign of peace at a liturgical celebration. Even so, during the Synod of Bishops there was discussion about the appropriateness of greater restraint in this gesture, **which can be exaggerated and cause a certain distraction**....just before the reception of Communion. It should be kept in mind that **nothing is lost when the sign of peace is marked by a sobriety** which preserves the proper spirit of the celebration.

THE DISTRIBUTION & RECEPTION OF THE EUCHARIST

#50. On certain occasions---for example, wedding Masses, funerals and the like-----in addition to practicing Catholics there may be others present who have long since ceased to attend Mass or are living in a situation which does not permit them to receive the sacraments. At other times members of other Christian confessions and even other religions may be present.....**There is a need to find a brief and clear way to remind those present of the meaning of sacramental communion and the conditions required for its reception.**

51. After the blessing, the deacon or the priest dismisses the people with the words: ***Ite, missa est.*** These words help us to grasp the relationship between the Mass just celebrated and the mission of Christians in the world. In antiquity, *missa* simply meant “dismissal.” In Christian usage it gradually took on a deeper meaning. The word “dismissal” has come to imply a “mission.” These few words succinctly express the missionary nature of the Church.

#52. The Second Vatican Council rightly emphasized the active, full and fruitful participation of the entire People of God in the Eucharistic celebration.....Yet we must not overlook the fact that some **misunderstanding has occasionally arisen concerning the precise meaning of participation.** It should be made clear that **the word “participation” does not refer to mere external activity** during the celebration. In fact, the active participation called for by the Council must be understood in more substantial terms, on the basis of a greater awareness of the mystery being celebrated and its relationship to daily life.

To be continued....

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS

The Sacrament of Charity

Part 9 – Continuing our series of excerpts from *the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS* (Feb. 22, 2007) by **Pope Benedict XVI**. These inspired words can be a source of meditation in preparation for Holy Mass, and/or as a thanksgiving after Holy Mass.

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS... from **Part II:**

#53. Every celebration of the Eucharist, in fact, is led by the Bishop, “either in person or through priests who are his helpers.” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM], #92*).....There are also other ministries of liturgical service which can be carried out in a praiseworthy manner by religious and properly trained laity. (*GIRM #94*)

#55. **Active participation in the Eucharistic liturgy can hardly be expected if one approaches it superficially**, without an examination of his or her life. This inner disposition can be fostered, for example, by **recollection and silence for at least a few moments before the beginning of the liturgy**, by fasting and, when necessary, by sacramental confession.....there can be no *actuosa participatio* in the sacred mysteries without an accompanying effort to participate actively in the life of the Church as a whole, including a missionary commitment to bring Christ’s love into the life of society.

Clearly, full participation in the Eucharist takes place when the faithful approach the altar in person to receive Communion. Yet true as this is, **care must be taken lest they conclude that the mere fact of their being present in church during the liturgy gives them a right or even an obligation to approach** the table of the Eucharist. Even in cases where it is not possible to receive sacramental Communion, participation at Mass remains necessary, important, meaningful and fruitful.

#57. We all gladly acknowledge that **the media have also opened up new possibilities** for the celebration of the Eucharist.....When Mass is broadcast on television,.....particular care should therefore be taken to ensure that, in addition to taking place in suitable and well-appointed locations, the celebration respects the liturgical norms in force.

While it is most praiseworthy that the elderly and the sick participate in Sunday Mass through radio and television, the same cannot be said of those who think that such broadcasts dispense them from going to church and sharing in the Eucharistic assembly in the living Church.

#62. **[There should be no doubt] upon the importance of....large-scale liturgies**. I am thinking particularly of celebrations at international gatherings, **which nowadays are held with greater frequency**.....I wish to endorse the proposal made by the Synod of Bishops, in harmony with the directives of the Second Vatican Council, that, with **the exception of the readings, the homily and the prayer of the faithful, such liturgies should be celebrated in Latin**. Similarly, the better-known prayers of the Church’s tradition should be recited in Latin and, if possible, selections of Gregorian chant should be sung.....**the faithful can be taught to recite the more common prayers in Latin, and also to sing parts of the liturgy to Gregorian chant.**
(*Propositio 36*)

To be continued....

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS

The Sacrament of Charity

Part 10 – Continuing our series of excerpts from *the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS* (Feb. 22, 2007) by **Pope Benedict XVI**. These inspired words can be a source of meditation in preparation for Holy Mass, and/or as a thanksgiving after Holy Mass.

SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS... from **Part II:**

#64. **The Synod of Bishops asked that the faithful be helped to make their interior dispositions correspond to their gestures and words. Otherwise, however carefully planned and executed our liturgies may be, they would risk falling into a certain ritualism.** Hence the need to provide an education in Eucharistic faith capable of enabling the faithful to live personally what they celebrate.....“the best catechesis on the Eucharist is the Eucharist itself, celebrated well.” (Propositio 19)

#65. A convincing indication of the effectiveness of Eucharistic catechesis is surely an **increased sense of the mystery of God present** among us. This can be expressed in **concrete outward signs of reverence for the Eucharist** which the process of mystagogy should inculcate in the faithful. (Propositio 34) I am thinking in general of **the importance of gestures and posture**, such as kneeling during the central moments of the Eucharistic prayer.

#66. During the early phases of the reform, the inherent relationship between Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was not always perceived with sufficient clarity. For example, an objection that was widespread at the time argued that the Eucharistic bread was given to us not to be looked at, but to be eaten. In light of the Church’s experience of prayer, however, **this was seen to be a false dichotomy.** As **Saint Augustine** put it: *“nemo autem illam carnem manducat, nisi prius adoraverit; peccemus non adorando – no one eats the flesh without first adoring it; we should sin were we not to adore it.”*Receiving the Eucharist means adoring Him whom we receive.....**The act of adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration** itself. Indeed, “only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that then strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another.” (Pope Benedict XVI’s address to the Roman Curia, Dec. 22, 2005)

#67. Wherever possible, **it would be appropriate**, especially in densely populated areas, to set aside specific churches or oratories for perpetual adoration. I also **recommend** that, in their catechetical training, and especially in their preparation for First Holy Communion, children be taught the meaning and the beauty of spending time with Jesus, and helped to cultivate a sense of awe before His presence in the Eucharist.

#68. I feel obliged to urge parishes and other church groups to set aside times for collective adoration. **Existing forms of Eucharistic piety retain their full value.....processions with the Blessed Sacrament, especially the traditional procession on Corpus Christi, the Forty Hours devotion,**...and other similar initiatives.

To be continued...

The GREEN Thing

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days." The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right – our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottle over and over. So they really were *truly* recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, bags that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line outdoors, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back then. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine to burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity!

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade became dull.

A Thanksgiving Proclamation

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. **I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe** the last Thursday of November next as a **Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father** who dwelleth in the heavens. And **I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care** all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eight.

Abraham Lincoln

