

WWW.BILLERICACATHOLIC.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

Eucharist means “Thanksgiving”

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends our focus may be on preparing (or eating!) a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. But as Catholic Christians, we know there is a greater good to be thankful for: Jesus, present to us in the Eucharist. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1359-61) teaches that: “The Eucharist, the sacrament of our salvation accomplished by Christ on the cross, is also a sacrifice of praise in thanksgiving for the work of creation. In the Eucharistic sacrifice the whole of creation loved by God is presented to the Father through the death and the Resurrection of Christ. Through Christ the Church can offer the sacrifice of praise in thanksgiving for all that God has made good, beautiful, and just in creation and

in humanity. The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all "thanksgiving." The Eucharist is also the sacrifice of praise by which the Church sings the glory of God in the name of all creation. This sacrifice of praise is possible only through Christ: he unites the faithful to his person, to his praise, and to his intercession, so that the sacrifice of praise to the Father is offered *through* Christ



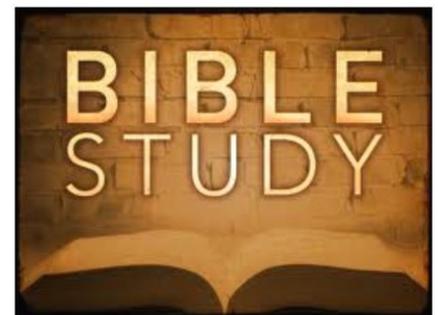
and *with* him, to be accepted *in* him.”

Perhaps something to ponder as we celebrate on November 24th.



Prayer: A Thanksgiving Grace

Page 2



What the Hell!: A Bible Study

Page 2

Prayer: Thanksgiving Grace

Try using the following prayer activity with your family and friends at Thanksgiving Dinner:

During the first winter in America, the Pilgrims were cold and hungry. Sometimes each person had only five kernels of corn. When spring came they planted their corn, so they had more food the next year. But from then on at Thanksgiving, they each kept five kernels of corn at their plates to remind them of God's gifts to them.

Today, this corn reminds us of the meaning of Thanksgiving:

- First kernel – stands for God's love
- Second Kernel – reminds us that God provides for all of our needs
- Third kernel – stands for the

- friends God has given us
- Fourth kernel – reminds us of all the people who love us
- Fifth kernel – reminds us that God hears our prayers.

You are invited to share a gift from God that you are especially thankful for this past year.



A SIMPLE GRACE

Loving God, thank you for providing for us in so many ways. Please bless all those who are hungry this day, and help us to find ways to share our plenty with them. Amen.



What the Hell!

A Bible Study with Father Hal

People sometimes ask innocently whether the Catholic Church still believes in Hell. Not only is it still, "on the books," it is Jesus' own constant preaching on the subject that makes His people take notice of what is, in reality, a great gift from God. Please join us for a biblical look into one of the most precious, if misunderstood, of Christ's gifts to His Church.

St. Mary Church Hall, Billerica: Monday, November 7th, 14th, and 21st at 7:00 PM

****There will be Mass on Thanksgiving Day at St. Andrew Church at 8:30 AM!**