

# “I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.” – Psalm 69:30

by Fr. Mark Pavlik  
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This week we will be celebrating Thanksgiving Day. Hopefully it provides an opportunity for us to take time to offer thanks for all we have – and enjoy a little pie while we are at it.

Offering thanks is central to our lives as Catholics. As people of faith, our hearts should be continually filled to overflowing with thanksgiving to the God who created and redeemed us. Continual gratitude should flood our hearts and lives and prayers of thanksgiving should be offered to Him continually and not just one day a year.

Thanksgiving, however, is not enough. Prayers of thanks should always lead to praise. Thanks expresses appreciation for what God has done to benefit the one who is thankful. Praise goes beyond thanksgiving. True praise exalts, glorifies, and honors God for whatever He has done and especially for who He is. Praise takes us from the ordinary to the sublime, out of ourselves into Him.

By moving the focus from ourselves to Him, we open our hearts to generosity. By realizing that what we have comes from Him, we also acknowledge our need to give as generously as we have received. As we pray in our parish stewardship prayer each week at Mass, “*we recognize that all we have and all we are come through your generosity.*” And so we are called to be stewards of the many gifts we have received through God’s generosity.

Genuine Christian Stewardship is lived out in various ways by:

- living and telling the Good News,
- wisely using our resources for the building up of the kingdom and spreading of the Gospel,
- helping those who are in need,
- providing for future generations, and
- sharing in the life, worship and responsibility of the Church and her mission.

Our parish provides great service to so many because of the generosity of our entire community. We are able to meet the pastoral, spiritual and personal needs of a good number of those who come to us seeking the care and compassion of Jesus Christ and for that, we should all be very thankful. As a visible sign of our gratitude, we can offer back to God a portion of our financial gifts to continue the work of St. Olaf Catholic Church, “*Serving as a living sign of Christ’s presence in the Heart of the City.*”

I invite you to join me in prayer for the success of our 2010 Parish Fund Appeal and to prayerfully consider how you will participate in sustaining our mission in the heart of the city.