



November 18, 2021

We will be celebrating the feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple on Sunday, and that is the special feast of our Presentation community. That is the day that Mary dedicated her life to God as a small child. I always think that day is like our Baptism and our parents dedicated us to God. However, that is the last Sunday of the Church year, so we also celebrate it as the Feast of Christ the King.

Thanksgiving will also soon be here, and I pray that it will be a great time for all of your family. You might recall that Thanksgiving is what the word says – *a day to give thanks*. You have probably heard about how the early settlers used it to give thanks for the blessings of their harvest of the previous year. In 1777, George Washington declared the last Thursday of November as a day to give thanks. That first year in the new world was a difficult one for the settlers. Disease and starvation had struck down many of the early colonists, and the fifty-three pilgrims at that first Thanksgiving were the only colonists to survive the long journey on The Mayflower and the first winter in the New World. What is known is that the pilgrims held the first Thanksgiving feast to celebrate a successful fall harvest.

Blessings to all of you as your family prepares for this special day. As I look at my calendar, I notice that Christmas is exactly one month from Thanksgiving (November 25th - December 25th). My reflection book says that *'even though our friends and family might get tired of our constant begging for what we want, God never does'*. God is willing to give us whatever we **need**.

God bless you and have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Sister Marilyn Dunn, PBVM

Assistant in Student Services and Mission
Presentation College