

## From The Rector's Desk – Fall 2019

*by the Rev. Daniel Fournier*



*The Reverend Daniel  
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*Photo credit:  
Catherine Hyde*

*Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'* John 6: 32-33

It is October. It is fall. It is that transitional time of the year when our thoughts flow to the question of what will I do for Thanksgiving this year. Will I be with family, with friends? What will I make for the meal? The traditional turkey, mashed potatoes, turnips, peas, carrots, cranberry sauce, a salad, and some form of pie? Oh yes, let's not forget the stuffing! Or will it be something less traditional?

In a sense, all the festivities for many of us stem from a question of reflection, "What am I thankful for this year?" I know that this question has often been reflected upon by people sitting around the table saying what they are thankful for. We have even done this a few times with our adults and children at Fantastic Friday.

Well, perhaps this gives me a chance to share with you my list of what I am so very grateful for. There are things that have had a most significant impact on me and that I count as significant moments of grace in my life.

I am thankful for my parents who instilled in me a love for God, for the church, for prayer, and for faith. They are the primary first transmitters of the faith that I hold so dearly and which is the firm foundation of my life.

I am thankful for my wife, Joan, for her unconditional love, and care; for her solid faithfulness in and support of this call to priesthood. I am thankful for her sharing life with me in her journeys with me through highs and lows, victories and challenges, and also in her faithful support of my musical adventures.

I am thankful for the gift of being a stepfather to four wonderful, brilliant, precious grown-up children. All have lives of their own and most have partners of their own. I am so proud of them.

I am grateful and thankful for the gift of grandchildren and watching them grow. In particular, for the immense gift when we get a message from the ones so far away in Australia who say, "I want to Skype with Grannie and Grandpa."

I am thankful for all the special things that people do for me, and believe me there are so many. The one that comes to mind that still has an incredible impact on me even though this happened seven years ago. Our oldest daughter, Laura, purchased for Joan and myself airline tickets to Australia for her sister Shannon's wedding back in April 2012. Laura was not in a position to go physically at that time and Joan and I were not in a good financial position to go back then. This was a beautiful surprise and a wonderful act of generosity from Laura.

I then think of the wonderful gift of serving in this parish of Saint Luke. The gift of the people, and of the love and patience with me, Daniel, who sometimes is prone to being forgetful. Yet the people of St. Luke's have been so understanding, caring, and patient. For this, I am so much in gratitude to each one of you.



From: <https://livingbreadbaker.com/basic-country-sourdough-bread/>

All this brings me to the point that I want to make regarding my Thanksgiving message this year. This is really a long introduction to a short message: that in all things – in every gift and in every act of generosity or forgiveness, of love, goodness or care – is actually a gift of God. God, through Jesus Christ and his incarnation, is acting through each one of us in being to the other all these positive attributes and acts.

Therefore, as seen in the comments in John 6: 32 to 33, the act of giving bread can be seen as every good act, every good gesture of care, love, compassion, and generosity. The root of this is from the one who is love, God, the true life-giving and sustaining bread.

A blessed Thanksgiving to each one of you and may God bless you.

Daniel +

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