

From the desk of Rob Costante, Principal...

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Having grown up in Towson, a small town within the Baltimore area, I fondly recall the eagerness I felt as the calendar turned to November each fall. This special time of the year meant the arrival of the Thanksgiving holiday was soon to come. Until the age of thirteen, my appreciation for this day would involve a yearly trip to West Virginia to enjoy a holiday visit with no less than 25 paternal relatives. Such visits offered countless memories filled with laughter, love and left-overs!

It wasn't until my freshmen year of high school that I began to recognize this holiday as more than simply love, laughter and leftovers. It was at this time that my view of Thanksgiving would evolve. This evolution would come to include the influence of friendship and football in my family's celebration of this national holiday. As a 9th grader at Loyola HS in Towson, I attended my first ***Turkey Bowl*** football game. As the oldest all-male Catholic school rivalry in our country, the battle between Loyola and its crosstown rival Calvert Hall draws about 10,000+ fans each year. These two schools have traditionally hosted this event in either Memorial Stadium or now on the imposing field that is Ravens Stadium. Since attending my first game 29 years ago, I have continued to be captivated by the camaraderie shared on the field between teammates and opponents and in the stands between students, their families, alumni and other friends. Having attended this game as a student, player, coach and alumnus, I am mindful that an event such as the ***Turkey Bowl*** can serve as a unifying means to highlight the gift of family and friendship.

The true gift of Thanksgiving invites us to celebrate and praise the glorious blessings in our lives. Now living as a community member of St. Francis de Sales, I feel grateful for the blessing of our students as they grow in faith, service and knowledge. I also feel gratitude for the care and leadership that our faculty members offer our young people. As well, I am indebted for the never-ending love and support that our parents and parishioners offer our school community. While this holiday will forever remind me of family love in West Virginia and the blessing of shared friendship in Baltimore, I am now able to cherish the gift of serving a community whose calling is to inspire a faith-filled life that honors the presence of Jesus Christ in all that we do and all that we are given.

On behalf of SFdS, we pray in joyous thanksgiving for the blessings of family and friendship within our community. May the Lord bless your holiday with love, laughter, fellowship & plenty of delicious left-overs!

As we look ahead to the fifteenth week of school, I would like mention a few noteworthy items:

- *On November 28th, the SFdS School Band will perform at the Pocomoke Parade.*
- *On November 29th, the HSA will hold its monthly meeting at 5:30pm in the Parish Center.*
- *On November 30th, report cards for the first trimester will be sent home.*
- *On December 2nd, the School Choir will perform at 6:30pm in the Parish Center.*

Have a blessed and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday!

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