

Dear SMG Families,

This morning our Faith Families gathered together to offer prayers of thanksgiving for all of the good gifts the God has bestowed upon all of us.

We began our Faith Family Assembly with prayer, and then discussed the virtue we will be focusing on during the month of November, **Humility**, and we discussed all the different, simple ways we can show humility every day.

Blessings is our Faith Families topic for this month. We talked about what a blessing is, discussed a book called, *The Blessing Jar*, and shared some of the blessings we have in our lives as well as the blessings we have through our Catholic faith.

Attached to this letter is a picture of a blessings jar and the blessing jar prayer. Maybe this is something you can start at the beginning of the year or you may want to use something like this on Thanksgiving as you gather together to thank God for all of the good in your lives.

We ended our whole-group assembly with the 1st and 2nd Grade students singing, *It is Good to Give Thanks*, then leading the entire student body in the singing of that song.

In their small Faith Family groups students continued the discussion of the blessings in their lives and talked about why it is important that we share our blessings to help others. Students were given information about our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, they decorated lunch Blessing Bags that will be filled with food at the Salvation Army Center and given to the homeless, and they created prayer cards and bookmarks that will be given to our veterans as a “thank you” during our Veterans Day Ceremony next week.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the season of Advent, I hope you and your family enjoy this time together. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time when we can slow down just a bit and joyfully gather with those dearest to us to remember how blessed we are by God.

May you enjoy the season, and may it be full of laughter and peace.

Blessings,

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations”.*

Psalm 100: 4-5