

Thanksgiving Day History (repeated)

Thanksgiving is a decidedly American holiday highlighted by the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and football games. Golden, overstuffed turkeys, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and green bean casseroles prominently displayed on festively set tables across this great land. It is a holiday celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November.

The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving," was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in 1621. This feast lasted three days, and it was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims, as accounted by attendee Edward Winslow. The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "thanksgivings"- days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.

On Thursday, September 24, 1789, the first House of Representatives voted to recommend the First Amendment of the newly drafted Constitution to the states for ratification. The next day, Congressman Elias Boudinot from New Jersey proposed that the House and Senate jointly request of President Washington to proclaim a day of thanksgiving for "the many signal favors of Almighty God". Boudinot said that he "could not think of letting the session pass over without offering an opportunity to all the citizens of the United States of joining, with one voice, in returning to Almighty God their sincere thanks for

the many blessings he had poured down upon them." As President, on October 3, 1789, George Washington made the proclamation and created the first Thanksgiving Day designated by the national government of the United States of America.

It became an official Federal holiday in 1863, when, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens", to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

On October 6, 1941, both houses of the United States Congress passed a joint resolution fixing the traditional last-Thursday date for the holiday beginning in 1942. However, in December of that year the Senate passed an amendment to the resolution that split the difference by requiring that Thanksgiving be observed annually on the fourth Thursday of November, which was sometimes the last Thursday and sometimes (less frequently) the next to last. The amendment also passed the House, and on December 26, 1941, President Roosevelt signed this bill, for the first time making the date of Thanksgiving a matter of federal law and fixing the day as the fourth Thursday of November. However, for several years, some states continued to observe the last-Thursday date in years with five November Thursdays (the next such year being 1944), with Texas doing so as late as 1956.

Then there is the *Armenian-American version* of Thanksgiving. We celebrate for exactly the same

reasons as our American brothers and sisters: our gratitude for good health, food, shelter, family, friends, and freedom. But we celebrate with a *twist*. An Armenian holiday table would be incomplete without at least a few of our treasured favorites – yalanchi, boregs, basterma, hummus, midia dolma, nuts, dried apricots, kufteh, paklava, etc., well you get the idea!

We wish you ALL, a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING from our Armenian Kitchen to yours!
The editorial staff of the TLC.

Friends and Family News – Mary Negosian

No Birthdays or Anniversaries to celebrate.

Don't Forget ... - Judy Cristiano

- Monday, November 7, Bible Study, 7-8:30 pm
Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian
- Sunday, November 13, St. John Music Guild
presents Pipes and Strings Concert, 4 pm
- Wednesday, November 16, Adult Catechism
7-8:30 pm – Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian
- Monday, November 21, Bible Study, 7-8:30 pm
Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jabejian
- Saturday, November 26, ACYOA St. John's
85th Anniversary Dance



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Seta Arslanian will be making a presentation on "How Smiling and Laughter Can Change Your Life" on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

UPTOWN CATERING
2038 Cass Lake Road
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Cater here at St. John's
Or at your place

Thought for the month

*"Be thankful for what you have;
You'll end up having more.*

*If you concentrate on what you don't have,
You will never, ever have enough."*
~ Oprah Winfrey

"Monthly Humor" – Dan Cristiano

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means? The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, It stands for 'Basic Information Before

Leaving Earth."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation:
"I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new gym-fellowship hall building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!



St. John Armenian Church

Tuesday Lunch Club



News

November 2016

Join us for lunch on Tuesdays

We always have a great meal and a good time with old friends. Come as you are and enjoy the camaraderie with old friends and new acquaintances.

Every Tuesday in the Veterans Building



Veteran's Building