

Becoming Anti-Racist: National Native Heritage Month and Thanksgiving

Learn (and unlearn) how to give thanks in a good way

"November is National Native Heritage Month. It is also the month of the traditional Thanksgiving holiday. Let's begin to understand the real story of Thanksgiving and the complex history undergirding this event in relation to Indigenous people. The path to reconciliation starts with honest acknowledgement of our past, with open eyes, and open hearts for a better future. It is time for us to be in good relation with one another. We can do that by learning and unlearning how to give thanks in a good way." - *All My Relations Podcast* Nov. 20, 2020

Listen to this [November 20th, 2020 episode](#) from the podcast "*All My Relations*." Native hosts talk with Wampanoag scholars Paula Peters and Linda Coombs, who tell us the real story of Thanksgiving, from an Indigenous Perspective. www.allmyrelationspodcast.com

Watch the [Thanksgiving Address](#). It is the central prayer and invocation for the Haudenosaunee (also known as the Iroquois Confederacy or Six Nations). It reflects their relationship of giving thanks for life and the world around them. The Haudenosaunee open and close every social and religious meeting with the Thanksgiving Address.

It is also said as a daily sunrise prayer, and is an ancient message of peace and appreciation of Mother Earth and her inhabitants. The children learn that, according to Native American tradition, people everywhere are embraced as family. Our diversity, like all wonders of Nature, is truly a gift for which we are thankful. <https://danceforallpeople.com/haudenosaunee-thanksgiving-address/haudenosaunee-thanksgiving-address-20/>



Honor the National Day of Mourning

An annual tradition since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. It is a solemn, spiritual, and highly political day. We are mourning our ancestors and the genocide of our peoples and the theft of our lands. NDOM is a day when we mourn, but we also feel our strength in action...It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide. <http://www.uaine.org>.

Some [simple, impactful things you can do](#) to help combat Native erasure this holiday:

Celebrate Indigenous cuisine. Add [one of these recipes](#) from Indigenous chefs to your Thanksgiving spread, with a focus on local, sustainable ingredients.

Speak about Native peoples in a respectful way. Look over this [Do and Don't guide](#) for allies, and use it to start conversations with your friends.

Learn Native History. Read [The Wampanoag Side of the Story](#), a three-page article.

Acknowledge whose land you're on at this very moment. Enter your zip code to find out whose traditional territories you're residing on. Take a minute to learn more about them and honor their enduring relationship to the land. native-land.ca/resources/territory-acknowledgement/

Support Native-lead initiatives. Read the article [Congress: It's Time to Pass the Indian Boarding School Legislation Now](#) then sign the [Petition](#) to "Form a National Truth and Healing Commission, Now."

For Kids

Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message by Chief Jake Swamp, Irwin Printup Jr. (illustrator)

Giving Thanks is a special children's version of the Thanksgiving Address, a message of gratitude that originated with the Native people of upstate New York and Canada and that is still spoken at ceremonial gatherings held by the Iroquois, or Six Nations.



FAITH JUSTICE

Facing Homelessness – Now Open on Saturday!

Did you know? Facing Homelessness' Window of Kindness is now open on Saturdays. That also means that they need more volunteers and donations! There are four new shifts on Saturdays, two from 11:45am-2:30pm, and two from 2:30pm-5:15pm. (You must sign up for an orientation session before you can sign up for volunteer shifts.) Visit facinghomelessness.volunteerhub.com to see a list of shifts and to sign up!

We're also looking for more donations – drop these off any time in the church vestibule kitchen: More sandwiches (email markp@stjosephparish.org if you're able to help with sandwiches), cases of water/sodas, small individual chips, granola bars, candy, pastries, beef jerky



Scan Here to Sign Up



Two Ways You Can Help Refugees Today!

The Billion Mile Challenge—This week, Welcome.US and Miles4Migrants launched a major mobilization to secure 1 billion miles to ensure that every Afghan newcomer has a free flight to their final destination in the United States. Thanks to the generosity of major U.S. airlines and travel industry leaders—United Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, JetBlue, Alaska Airlines, Boeing, Air Canada, Frontier, Tripadvisor Foundation and the American people, we are already more than halfway to our goal at 635 million miles. You can help. Help an Afghan family get to their new home at miles4migrants.org

Solving for Housing—Housing in the United States is expensive and in short supply in many communities, making it difficult for Afghans and the organizations supporting them to find a suitable place for them to live. Welcome.US is working with Airbnb, Zillow, and other private sector partners to unlock the housing challenge facing newcomers and is rallying philanthropic support for groups on the ground who are solving for housing in innovative ways. Host a refugee through Airbnb.org.