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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΚΑΝΑΔΑ
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October 7, 2026

To the Right Reverend Bishop, the Reverend Clergy, the Monastic Orders, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Ladies of the Philoptochos Society, and the devout faithful of the Holy Archdiocese of Canada

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights."
James 1:17

Beloved Fathers and blessed children in Christ,

As our nation observes Thanksgiving, the Church invites us to raise our hearts beyond the blessings themselves to the divine Source, God-man Christ, from whom every blessing proceeds. Gratitude, for the Christian, is not merely an expression of appreciation; it is a spiritual disposition, a recognition that our life, our gifts, our relationships, and indeed all creation are entrusted to us by the loving providence of God.

The Holy Apostle Paul exhorts us: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This apostolic command reveals the profoundly Eucharistic character of Christian life. Indeed, the very word Eucharist means thanksgiving. At every Divine Liturgy, the Church gathers to offer thanksgiving to God "for all things of which we know and of which we know not, for the benefits manifest and hidden that have come upon us."

This year's Thanksgiving holds particular significance for me, as it is the first that I celebrate with you as Archbishop of Canada. With profound gratitude to Almighty God, I give thanks for the blessing of beginning this new chapter of my archpastoral ministry in this beautiful country and among the faithful of our Holy Archdiocese. The warmth with which I have been received by our clergy, communities, institutions, youth, and faithful has touched me deeply. I regard this welcome not simply as an expression of affection, but as an invitation for all of us to labour together, with unity of purpose and steadfast faith, for the strengthening of the sacred mission and witness of our Church throughout Canada.

Our thanksgiving, however, cannot remain confined to words. Holy Scripture reminds us: "Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). Therefore, as we gather around our family tables, let us remember those whose tables may be empty; those who are sick, elderly, isolated, or burdened by hardship; and all who long for companionship, dignity, and hope. Christian gratitude reaches its fullest expression when the blessings we have received become blessings shared with others.

We offer thanks also for Canada, our homeland, for its peace and freedoms, for the dignity of its people, and especially for the liberty to worship and confess our Orthodox Christian faith. We

remember with gratitude those who cultivate the earth, those who labour for the welfare of society, and all who serve the common good. At the same time, we recognize our sacred responsibility to be faithful stewards of God's creation, remembering the Psalmist's words: "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness" (Psalm 24:1).

May this Thanksgiving renew within each of us a spirit of humility, generosity, and Eucharistic gratitude. May our homes become places of prayer and hospitality, our churches our ecclesiastical communities, our schools of Christian love, and our lives a living offering of thanksgiving to the Lord, our God.

With these paternal thoughts, I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercessions of His Most Holy Mother the Theotokos and all the Saints, may bless you and your families, strengthen those who suffer, comfort those who are alone, and grant to our beloved Canada peace, concord, and every good and perfect gift from above.

With paternal love and Archpastoral blessings,

+APOSTOLOS


Archbishop of Canada