

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids – of All Ages!
NOVEMBER 20, 2105--THANKSGIVING DAY



Can you color this
Thanksgiving Pheasant
and make it look like the photograph?

Ring-necked Pheasant

How do you celebrate Thanksgiving? Lots of delicious food, family, and maybe a football game or a parade on the TV? Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy and homemade pies have always been on my table.

The first thanksgiving looked very different. They probably ate Indian corn, fish, pheasant, duck, lobster, and perhaps seal, swan, and eel—all foods familiar to the Native Americans who helped the Pilgrims. They didn't have any sugar or ovens, so they didn't have pies, or even cranberry sauce, and they probably didn't have turkey!

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

The first Thanksgiving feast would have looked very strange to our modern eyes. But the spirit of the celebration would be easy for us to understand, because then, as now, Thanksgiving is a reminder of the bounty of the Earth, the importance of hard work and cooperation—and most of all of giving thanks to God for all of the wonderful blessings in our lives.



Living with an **ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE** is sometimes forgotten in our busy, crowded lives. Try cultivating a grateful heart by placing a “**Thanksgiving Bowl**” on your family dinner table. Every day, members of the family could write out a blessing that they are thankful for and place it in the bowl. Having a rough day? Choose a slip of paper and read it. It might be yours, or another member of the family’s, but it will be sure to remind you that no matter how bad the day is, there are always many blessings.

Dinner Table Conversation:

Today was a wonderful day! I can name three things for which I’m very thankful...
Today was an awful day! Everything seemed to go wrong...but now that I think about it, here are three things for which I’m thankful...



A PILGRIM THANKSGIVING

What were the thanks that the Pilgrims gave?
For a good harvest—enough food to eat
For simply living through the first year
For friendship with the Native Americans who helped
them survive their first year
For safely crossing the Atlantic Ocean
For being able to worship God in freedom

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know.
It is posted weekly on www.stjamesbatavia.org