

## THANKSGIVING: A blessed day for all

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Thursday marks the beginning of the most wonderful time of the year. It is a time of happiness and giggles. It is a time of giving and joy. It is a time of remembrance and graciousness. But most of all, it is a time of family and friends.

Thanksgiving is certainly a time to cherish. Families, new and old, join together to celebrate all the gifts we share. It is a day for loved ones to spend together. We make such a fuss over the turkey and the pecan pie. But those are just trimmings - add-ons to a special day. Thanksgiving is about the family — and that makes it so special. And for those of us who are lucky enough to have added to our family circle during the year, this is an even more special time. There are new joys to discover, new smiles to enjoy and new love to cherish.

We can also remember those no longer with us during the season. And though we may miss them terribly, this is the time to rejoice in the time we had together — very special remembrances of past seasons of joy and love. We must also remember and give thanks to the men and women of our Armed Forces, who are spending this holiday season far from the comforts of home. It is because of them, their sacrifices and the generations of soldiers who have walked in their shoes that we are able to make such special memories with our own families. God bless them all and their families who will miss them so much this holiday season.

Thanksgiving is also the beginning of the holiday season. Oh, some of us may have gotten a jump on holidays in the last few days, but Thanksgiving makes it official - and there is no better time of year. It is a time we can be a little nicer to those around us. It is a time that we can maybe reach out to someone we have lost touch with over the year. We cherish our family a little more and our friends become a little more important to us during the season.

We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with family, friends and love and a safe and joyous holiday season.