

Autumn – Season of Thanksgiving - 13 October 2025

Opening Prayer

Response: *God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn*

We thank you:

for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy, **R**

for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist, **R**

for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches, **R**

for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls, **R**

for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children, **R**

for the fall harvest which that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land, **R**

for this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life. **R**

God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit. Amen
Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

First Reading: God called them, and they said, 'Here we are!' They shone with gladness for God who made them. Baruch 3:34-35



Second Reading: I hope that, where you live, it is a glorious day in a season of amazing beauty. In the northern hemisphere, Earth is shedding the plush accretions of summer in a multi-colored ritual of leave-taking. It is time to return to the essentials—back to the branch, back to the buried root, back to the bare, sturdy reality that will anchor us in winter.

Each day, some green leaf or blade will ignite like a phoenix—a blaze of scarlet or gold, only to extinguish that flame for a long winter's sleep. Nature knows when things are finished. It knows when it has had enough. It knows its need for a season of emptying, for a clearing of the clutter, for the deep hibernation of its spirit.

We humans often ignore the need for an “autumning” of our spirits. We live every moment in high energy of summer—producing, moving, anticipating, stuffing our lives with abundance. But simplicity, solitude, and clarity are necessary for our spirit to renew itself. Autumn is the perfect time to examine prayerfully the harvest of our lives—reaping

essentials and sifting out the superfluous. In the quiet shade of a tree, we may discover what we truly love, deeply believe, and really need to be fully happy.



Take time on these crystal days to ask yourself what is essential in your life. If something besides them inhibits you, let it go. Nurture your “essentials” with attention and care. Don’t take them for granted. After the flare of life’s summer has passed, these will sustain you: strong faith, faithful love, loving compassion. Tend them in the season of harvest. Renee Yann, rsm

Music: The Four Seasons: Autumn – Antonio Vivaldi <https://youtu.be/H7hGiZ579cs> (10 min.)

Closing Prayer:

God of honey and harvest
of grain and grape, of ocean and orchard.

This harvest time may we both praise and pray:
praise you for the abundance
and pray that this harvest is not just shared
but shared justly.
God of beehives and breadbaskets
of living webs and the weaving of life
of ecosystems and economy.



This harvest time may we both praise and pray:
praise you for the wealth of the harvest
and pray that this harvest is not just a promise
but is full of promise for all.
God of bumble bees and blue whales
evolution and environment ice-field and star-field.

This harvest time may we both praise and pray:
praise you for the sheer wonder of the world
and pray that this harvest is not about our wealth
but the wealth of our generosity.

Roddy Hamilton