

## Thanksgiving

11-22-2015 by Harry Zirkelbach  
Stars and Sun date 34248

This unique American observation is older than our nation.

It is celebrated by all for what it says. Like so much of our heritage, it has been commercialized beyond reason. But never in our family. It remains this day, of Thanks, family, good food, social gathering, in one of our homes.

For each of our family Thanksgiving is different, highlights galore.

But in giving thanks, there is nothing to compare with the planning and anticipation of the next gathering.

Having a large family that gathers for holidays requires a large house. Now that we have downsized accommodations, but not comfort, not each of our children can accommodate thirty.

Now our participation is limited to providing some of that meal, and yes, each year that contribution lessens.

For our lifetime, Thanksgiving day began with the Catholic Mass. Gifts were brought for the needy. And since moving here, that Holiday, and every one celebrated in Windsor Gardens, began for me with furling the United States and Colorado flags outside Building 60. More thanks.

The bustle of buying and preparing the meal is replaced. Barbara and I look forward to those same Tuesday and Wednesday before the holiday, because now pieces of family begin arriving from out of state. We meet them, learn first hand, episodes they want to share before Thanksgiving day.

This year, a son, his wife and son gather from California;  
Grandson, Army Sergeant Nic, returning from more training in a  
California, rejoining his pregnant wife and mother here in  
Denver; two granddaughters, their families from separate parts  
of Texas.

One of these beauties has made our daughter a grandmother  
four times.

Four generations in the same room. With the longevity of the  
1920/30s, that never happened in the Foley or Zirkelbach  
families where Barbara and I were raised.

Sharing the Thanksgiving meal keeps the body alive.  
Sharing friendship and stories is more important,  
beyond the obligatory family responsibilities.  
And those memories keep the family connected,  
can last forever.

And so it is, this Thanksgiving is on our mind.

We've been blessed beyond belief.

Now sharing Thanksgiving  
is our delight.