



HISTORIC ALL SAINTS and ASCENSION

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Dear Parishioners,

Now that we are into Fall, many of you may be wondering about the United Thank Offering, better known as UTO. In the past, the blue coin boxes were distributed for an In-Gathering, to encourage the counting of your blessings. The boxes were returned later, generally around the Thanksgiving holiday. In the past, All Saints and Ascension have repeated the UTO in-gathering in the Spring, as well.

Since assuming the responsibility of UTO Coordinator this year, I have learned that most churches have decided on only one in-gathering per year. With the impact of COVID-19, as well as other very important ministries, such as Stewardship, we will wait until the Spring. The UTO boxes will be distributed at a later time.

The basis of UTO is **gratitude**. UTO encourages gratitude, as a discipline in our daily life in Christ, wherein we offer prayers of thanksgiving for our many blessings. So, we can practice gratitude now, even before receiving a blue box.

gratitude

In a recent Zoom meeting with UTO coordinators across the country, the National Staff Officer, introduced a November 2020 Gratitude Challenge. The attached document can be used to spend the month intentionally practicing gratitude. Each of the four weeks focuses on a different theme. For example, the first week, November 1 -7, we give thanks for all of the departed saints, in our time and those who have gone before us. We did that, as a congregation, on All Saints Sunday.

If you have ever kept a gratitude journal, you will find that you have been blessed in ways that might have been taken for granted otherwise. If you are interested in taking the challenge, these can be printed out, and used any way that works for you.

If you have any questions about UTO or the challenge, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Margarett Williams
UTO Coordinator, All Saints and Ascension