

# *400th Anniversary Of 1st Thanksgiving*



**By Dr. R. Pletsch**

This week we celebrate the 400th anniversary of what has become to be known as The First Thanksgiving. Today we think of turkey, parades, football and family. The first Thanksgiving, near Plymouth, Massachusetts, had a few recordings of the three day celebration. The accounts say there were 90 natives and 53 pilgrims.

The celebration was recorded as mainly religious. It was more a Thanksgiving to God for survival than Thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. The holiday was celebrated in many places with many things. It slowly developed into the start of the Christmas season which now seems to begin with Halloween.

But let's take the time to help our youngsters comprehend the original reason for the celebration. You might show the "Peanuts Thanksgiving" cartoon. During the movie, some characters are yelling for turkey, but popcorn was there to be shared, which is what they had. Then let them know that more than half the pilgrims had died that first year in North America. Instead of stressing bitterness, they thanked God for letting them survive.

It can be a great time to ask kids what they are thankful for. It can run the gamut, health from Covid-19, dad finding a job. It might be a little more childish and talk about new toys. But thinking of being grateful and expressing it is a great life lesson. We hear many groups complaining about the USA, but none of them choose another place to live. You know what our southern border looks like. That there are hundreds of thousands trying to do it legally. Can they all be wrong?