I want to say thank you for all for wonderful blessing that we have received here at Sacred Heart ECC. The best blessing of all is You, our Families. I hope that each parent knows that you are a blessing not only to us, but to your children. As parents, you run around all day making sure that breakfast is served, dinner is prepared, the laundry is done, you went to work and completed all your responsibilities there. You worry that you are doing the right thing for your children, that you said the right thing, that your children know you love them. Don’t worry … they do. It is not always easy to be a parent. It is hard to say, “No”. It is hard to watch as they struggle to learn those tough lessons. The tear that silently runs down your cheek as you drive to work after a hard morning is the toughest to wipe away. Don’t worry, you are doing great. Your children love you. We know they do, because they tell us so, every day! We are here to offer all our parents any help that we can, a shoulder to lean on and a cheer for the days that you feel you least deserve it. God bless each of you, Our Parents!

Every Year I suggest that we “Spend Time, Not Money” during the holiday season, and encourage family members to do the same. How many of us dread the yearly hunt for the gift for the person that has everything or that are hard to buy for. How many of us can’t store another movie, empty photo album, serving plate or oversized coffee cup? Ask family and friends for “experiences” instead of “material things”. Spending time with your loved ones is precious and priceless.

It is also a good idea to do this with your children as well. Instead of loading up toys, that will be forgotten in a week, under the tree, create a “Calendar of Experiences” you can do with your family through out the year. Make a family journal about your adventures including pictures. You will have spent the year making wonderful family memories and spent amazing quality time with your children.

Some ideas for experiences could be that “Aunt Sally” spend the afternoon with your child at the movies or the aquarium instead of buying a toy that will soon be broken or forgotten. Maybe grandma and grandpa could take the kids to a baseball game or museum for the afternoon. Perhaps plan to go fishing or backyard camping trip with all the “cousins’ and friends.

Some other activities that you could ask for instead of the toys are tickets to the movies, matinee musicals, children’s museums, local zoo, or any place that you can have an interactive experience with your children. Build a fort in the backyard out of the leftover wood from a home improvement project and some old furniture. Make a family cookbook with your children and have them help prepare and taste test all the recipes. Spend extra time reading their favorite book together or begin a research project about something that interest your child like aviation and rockets and use books as well as the internet to look up related articles and research. Build a rocket with your child to launch. Plant a garden, build a kite, plan a fabulous “tea” party, start painting watercolors together of the flowers in the backyard. Plan arts and craft projects together using nature items (leaves and sticks are free.) The possibilities are endless.

If you have a favorite family activity that you do with your family and would like to share, we would love to hear from you!! Spend time and create those memories.

We hope that everyone has a very Blessed Thanksgiving full of love and   
warmth. Thank you for blessing us!