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## Celebrating November

**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
**4:30 PM & 6:00PM**  
*November 8*

**Veterans Day (U.S.)**  
*November 11*

**Entertainer Johnny Len**  
**2:00 PM, 394 Building**  
*November 13*

**Entertainer Jack**  
**2:00 PM, 400 Building**  
*November 22*

**Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)**  
*November 23*

**Entertainer Rodger**  
**1:00 PM, 1350 Building**  
*November 30*

## On the Thanksgiving Menu

Thanksgiving in America means gracing the table with a classic roast turkey with stuffing and gravy, sides of cranberry sauce and sweet potatoes, and, of course, a pumpkin pie for dessert. By the start of November, Canada has already celebrated its own national Thanksgiving with the traditional turkey, stuffing, and gravy, and a spicier pumpkin pie made with nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, and ginger. While we call these foods the "traditional" dishes of Thanksgiving, were these foods really eaten by the Pilgrims and Wampanoags at the first Thanksgiving in 1621?

For many, turkey is synonymous with Thanksgiving. While there is no exact record of the first Thanksgiving menu, one Pilgrim named Edward Winslow did keep a chronicle of the colony's daily events. He noted that prior to the feast, governor William Bradford sent men on a fowl-hunting mission. This "fowling" group may have hunted for wild turkeys, but it is more likely that they brought back ducks, geese, and swans. These birds were not stuffed with bread-based stuffing, but with onions, herbs, and nuts. While no definite record of turkey exists, it is known that the Wampanoags arrived at the feast with five deer, which may have been roasted on a spit or cooked into a savory stew.

Vegetables were plentiful, especially corn, but it was made into cornmeal, which was then pounded and boiled into a porridge sweetened with molasses. Cranberries were also plentiful, but they were not made into sweet sauces, jellies, or tarts. The Pilgrims had long run out of sugar from their ocean voyage. There were also no potatoes, either sweet or white, at the first Thanksgiving, for potatoes did not yet exist in North America. While pumpkins were native, they were not made into pies, for the Pilgrims had no butter or wheat flour to make piecrust. What is more certain is that shellfish was abundant: mussels, clams, oysters, bass, and lobster were stars of the first Thanksgiving.

## Allhallowtide



October is over and the excitement of Halloween has passed, but many forget that Halloween is just the first of the three-day religious observance, or *triduum*, of Allhallowtide. Halloween falls the evening before All Saints' Day, also

known as All Hallows' Day, on November 1. This Christian festival commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, famous and obscure. It is a day that highlights the spiritual bond between the dead in heaven and the living, and these saints' intercessions on our behalf. The third day of the triduum, All Souls' Day, falls on November 2. This is a day that commemorates the souls of all the faithfully departed.

Allhallowtide is celebrated all around the world, but perhaps the most famous iteration of this holiday is Mexico's Day of the Dead, or *Día de Muertos*. Before the arrival of Spanish explorers in the 16th century, this Aztec festival was celebrated annually at the start of summer as a rite worshipping the goddess Mictecacihuatl, the Queen of the Underworld. But the Spaniards brought Catholicism with them, including the tradition of Allhallowtide, and soon the Mexican tradition was moved to coincide with the Catholic holiday. Similar to All Souls' Day, this national holiday in Mexico is a time to remember those who have passed. It is a lively celebration, with plenty of food and drink, as well as traditions of leaving marigolds and *calaveras*, ornate skulls made of sugar, as offerings to the deceased.

As in Mexico, where Catholicism melded with Aztec culture, in Haiti the local Vodou (commonly known as voodoo) has blended with Allhallowtide to become *Fete Gede*. The *Gede* are a family of *loa*, or invisible spirits, who possess the powers of death and fertility, the chief of whom is Baron Samedi. Haitians visit the capital's main cemetery to leave gifts of wax candles, flowers, and rum stuffed with chili peppers to warm the old bones of Baron Samedi and the other *loa*. This festival honors not only those who have passed but the spirits who watch over those souls.

## November Birthdays

In astrology, those born between November 1–21 are Scorpios. Scorpios are passionate, deep, and intense—qualities that help them counsel others in deep and meaningful ways. Resourceful and determined, Scorpios give their all when it comes to following their hearts. Those born between November 22–30 are the Archers of Sagittarius. Sagittarians are travelers, open-minded, and constantly in search for meaning. Extroverted and optimistic, Archers seek change and take concrete steps to achieve their goals.

## Resident Birthdays

John V. – November 7  
Dorothy – November 8  
Patricia B. – November 11  
Floyd – November 13  
Rita – November 17  
Jim – November 18  
Jean – November 24  
Jeannette – November 28

## From the Activity Directors Desk

We are excited to announce that our Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> this year. We will have two seating times, 4:30 PM or 6:00 PM. Reservations need to be made by October 31<sup>st</sup>. We ask that you do not make reservations for more than a group of 7 so we can accommodate all of our families comfortably. Please call or text Kassie at 920-412-6224 or email at [kassie@angelstouchbrf.com](mailto:kassie@angelstouchbrf.com) to make a reservation. All texts and emails will be confirmed with a text or email back. We hope to see everybody there!