

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, January 10, 2016**

***The Baptism of the Lord***

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

## **INTRODUCING THE MAIN CHARACTER**

Good authors know that in any of their stories they have to introduce the characters about whom they are writing. That is especially the case when it comes to the principal character.

Authors have to let readers know something about the central person in their story. They have to reveal the main character's history and background, the character's motivation and thought process, the relationship of that character to the other people mentioned in the story. Authors have to give their readers an understanding of the main character; otherwise, those readers will not be drawn into the story. The main figure has to be described by more than just a name.

What is true in any good story is also true in the greatest story ever told, the story of Jesus.

In the Gospels of this Christmas season, which began on December 25 and that will end this Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the authors of the Gospels have been introducing us to Jesus. They have been letting us know who this Jesus is, the one we will be hearing more about in the weeks ahead as the Gospels unfold.

In the Gospels of Christmas Day, Luke told us that Jesus was "Christ and Lord" while John proclaimed Jesus to be the Word who was "in the beginning with God" and the victorious light that shines undimmed by the darkness.

In the Gospel read on the Feast of the Holy Family, Luke revealed that even as a boy of 12 Jesus was filled with a depth of wisdom and understanding that astounded the teachers in the Temple. He was like no other Jewish boy.

In the Gospel assigned for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, Luke revealed that the infant born in Bethlehem was given the name Jesus, meaning "God saves," not by his parents but by the angel of God before he was conceived.

In the Gospel for the Epiphany of the Lord, Matthew told us that the birth of Jesus was heralded by a shining star that attracted magi to come with gifts for this "newborn king of the Jews." The report of these Gentile pilgrims troubled Herod and all Jerusalem and set in motion plans for Jesus' destruction.

Then in this Sunday's Gospel for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22), Luke summarizes what has been so far revealed about Jesus. Luke makes it abundantly clear that this figure was unlike any other to walk the pages of the Bible or to walk the land of Judah. Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, filled with the Holy Spirit of God, and God's "beloved Son" with whom the Father was well pleased.

In the Gospels of the Christmas Season we have been introduced once more to Jesus. We have been reminded that as we listen to his words in the Sunday Gospels, we will be hearing God

speak to us. We have been reminded that as we hear of him forgiving sinners, healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, driving out demons, and feeding the hungry, we will be seeing the compassion and mercy of God in action. We have been reminded that in Jesus we have a window into the very heart of God.

Unless we understand who Jesus truly is, we will never fully appreciate the Gospel – the amazing story of God revealing himself and inviting us to have a personal relationship with him.

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*Best Wishes for a New Year filled with God's Presence and Peace!*