

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, January 12, 2025

The Baptism 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.

Looking to Sunday has been published for more than sixteen years.

INAUGURATION DAY

Monday, January 20, is Inauguration Day. On that day, Donald Trump will stand in front of the United States Capitol Building and swear to faithfully execute the office of president and preserve, protect, and defend the constitution to the best of his ability.

Upon taking this oath, which will be administered by the Chief Justice, Donald Trump will become the 47th President of our nation. Upon his inauguration, he will immediately assume all the duties of the presidency and members of his administration will take positions of leadership.

Today, January 12, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, might be seen as inauguration day in the Church's calendar. Our Gospel tells us that Jesus was baptized by John. This baptism was not one that washed away sin, for Jesus was sinless. Rather this baptism marked a transition in the life of Jesus and the inauguration of his ministry.

Jesus, who went into the Jordan River as the carpenter from Nazareth and the son of Mary and Joseph, emerged as something far more. For Luke tells us that after the baptism of Jesus, "heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'"

After this "inauguration," Jesus, who was then "about thirty years of age" (Luke 3:23), began his public ministry. We might say that the "administration" of Jesus began as he went forth with his disciples to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel, to announce the coming of God's Kingdom, and to bring healing and hope to the suffering.

This Feast of the Baptism of the Lord also inaugurates the weeks of the liturgical year called Ordinary Time. During the coming Sundays of this liturgical season, we will listen to Gospel readings that tell us of the work and ministry of God's beloved Son.

This work and ministry continue to this very day through the Church that proclaims the Gospel, celebrates the sacraments, embodies the compassion and mercy of Jesus, and transforms people into children of God through the waters of baptism.

The inauguration of our new president and the start of his administration will affect our country for the next four years.

But the inauguration of the ministry of Jesus, which took place at his baptism, impacts each of us and it impacts all the world until the end of time.

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