

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, April 10, 2016**

***Third Sunday of Easter***

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.

## **YOUR FAVORITE MEAL**

What is your favorite meal of the day? It is breakfast, lunch, dinner, or maybe a mid-morning or late evening snack?

Many surveys indicate that breakfast is the most popular answer to that question. We seem to like breakfast. Certain fast food restaurants now serve breakfast all day long, and breakfast is always available at the local diner.

The thought of bacon and eggs, pancakes and sausages, waffles drenched in maple syrup, omelets and home fries, muffins, pastries, buttered toast, newly squeezed orange juice, cereal topped with fresh fruit, and cups of just brewed coffee gets a mouthwatering response.

If Jesus were asked that question, we might suppose his answer would be dinner or supper as some people call it. After all, the most famous dinner of all times was his Last Supper and the Gospels tell us that Jesus often had meals, most likely dinners, with various people such as Zacchaeus, Matthew, and Mary and Martha.

This Sunday's Gospel (John 21:1-19) might lead us to make another choice.

In that passage the Risen Lord unexpectedly appears to his disciples who are out fishing with no success. When he advises them to cast their net to the right side of their boat, they catch a tremendous number of fish. As they come ashore, Jesus says "Come, have breakfast."

He not only invites them to have breakfast, he cooks it for them. For we are told, "when they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread."

Jesus makes his amazed disciples a breakfast of bread and fish. We might even imagine that this was a favorite dish of Jesus. For the seven times that Jesus miraculously feeds thousands of people, he gives them the same meal, namely bread and fish.

Breakfast may have been the favorite meal of Jesus because breakfast is a meal that connotes optimism and hope. We look forward at breakfast as we think about the day ahead, while at lunch we tend to look at where we are at the moment, and dinner sees us looking back over our day with perhaps a touch of regret for missed opportunities and setbacks.

Jesus, the Risen One, preparing and eating breakfast with his disciples ushered in the start of a "new day" for his followers. They would now go forth to proclaim the good news of the Gospel and the amazing news that death was conquered and eternal life was assured for those who put their faith in the Risen Lord.

In Sunday's Gospel, we also see that breakfast heralded a new day for Peter. We read that "when they had finished breakfast" Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" By his

positive response, Peter reversed his earlier threefold denial of Jesus and Jesus reaffirmed his call to Peter, as he said once more, "Follow me."

The importance of that breakfast with Jesus can even be seen in our day. Just consider the fact that even though the Mass we celebrate is rooted in the Last Supper, we celebrate Mass far more often during the morning hours than in the evening. We are much more likely to have "breakfast" with the Risen Lord than supper.

Perhaps that is how it should be. We begin a new day empowered by the Risen Lord with the strength and the power, the optimism and the hope we need to live as his disciples and to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel.

Even today Jesus seems to be saying to us what he said to his disciples, "Come, have breakfast."

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*Happy Easter Season!*