

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, July 26, 2015

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on the Gospel Reading 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.

SUMMER HELP

During the summer months, companies sometimes hire additional help to do the work of their regular employees who are on vacation. Parishes often do the same thing. They secure the services of a priest assigned to an academic institution or visiting the area to assist with Masses and other services while one of the parish priests is on summer vacation or perhaps on his annual retreat.

When we look at this Sunday's Gospel reading, and those that will follow in the weeks ahead, we may conclude that Saint Mark also needed some temporary summer help.

Since the First Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Readings have generally been taken from the Gospel of Saint Mark. However, this Sunday our Gospel reading is taken from Saint John (John 6:1-15). This will also be true for the four Sundays that follow.

Those five readings from John's Gospel make their way into the cycle of readings from Mark since Mark's Gospel is not long enough to cover all the Sundays of the liturgical year. So as we are about to come to Mark's account of the multiplication of the loaves and fish, we jump to Saint John's account of that miracle.

We then remain in John's Gospel as Jesus goes from feeding a crowd of thousands to speaking of himself as the bread of life, the living bread from heaven that satisfies our deepest hunger and brings eternal life. In the sixth chapter of John, Jesus goes from providing bread and fish to saying "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." (John 6:53)

These coming Gospel readings from John will encourage us to more deeply reflect on the Eucharist, which we all too often take for granted. They will also give us the chance to revisit the only miracle, outside of the Resurrection, that is recounted in all four Gospels.

Sometimes the person hired for the summer does more than just fill in for an absent employee. Sometimes that summer employee brings insights and ideas that enhance the workplace and better the company. May Saint John do that for us as Saint Mark takes some well-earned summer vacation!

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