

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, October 19, 2025**

## ***The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

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.

### **PRAY AND ACT**

Christians are people who pray.

We pray for ourselves, our relatives, friends, and even strangers. We pray privately at home and when we gather with others at the Table of the Lord. We pray for those impacted by war, violence, and natural disasters. We pray for the hungry, the homeless, the unborn, and for all those devalued by society. We pray for people suffering in body or mind. We pray for the leaders of our Church and for those who govern our nation. We pray for peace, a more just society, and for the coming of God's kingdom. We pray when we are confronted with health challenges and when things happen that upend our lives.

Praying is something we as Christians have done since our parents first taught us how to speak to God.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 18:1-8), Jesus tells a parable about the need for us to be persistent in our prayer. He speaks about a widow who continues to demand that a judge render her a favorable judgement against her adversary. Jesus tells this parable to illustrate the need for us to continue to come before the Lord in prayer. We are "to pray always without becoming weary."

However, if we look carefully at that parable, it not only teaches us the necessity to keep praying; it also teaches us to do whatever we can to bring about what we are praying for.

In the parable, we learn the judge "neither feared God nor respected any human being." He is described as being a "dishonest judge." Though he recognized the widow deserved "a just decision," he refused to act for a long time.

The judge finally did what was right when the widow wore him down with her continuing demands for justice. She was so persistent that the judge thought she might finally strike him. She was a "no justice, no peace" woman.

Yes, the parable tells us to keep bringing our needs before the Lord in prayer. But it also teaches us that we should be like the widow: We should do whatever we can to bring about what we are praying for.

For example, besides praying for peace, we should work for peace by urging our national leaders to act as peacemakers. Besides praying for the hungry and the homeless, we should support programs that assist those in need and advocate for governmental action on their behalf. Besides praying for the sick, we should visit those confined to their homes or nursing facilities and say something if people are not being cared for as they deserve. Besides praying

for an end to abortion, we should speak up for unborn children and become involved in pro-life activities.

Besides praying, like the widow of the parable, we should be acting to bring about what we are praying for.

Centuries ago, Saint Benedict told his monks that they were to pray and to work. We might say that is what the widow did: she kept praying for a just decision and she kept pounding on the judge's door to get that decision. She kept working at it. May we do the same. May we pray and may we act!

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