

# ***LOOKING TO SUNDAY®***

**Sunday, November 27, 2016**

***First Sunday of Advent***

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.

## **WAITING FOR US**

We don't like waiting.

When we finish our grocery shopping we look for the shortest checkout line.

When we buy an item online we select the shipping method that will deliver the item in the least amount of time.

When we need to see a doctor we try to get the earliest appointment of the day to lessen the chances of sitting for a long time in the waiting room before being called.

We don't like waiting.

This season of Advent is about waiting. We recall how the Chosen People waited in hope for the coming of the Messiah. They waited for the promised descendant from the House of David whose kingdom would have no end. They waited for the coming of the Prince of Peace. They waited for their Savior. Their waiting finally came to an end when Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.

But Advent is not just about recalling how the people of the Old Testament waited. Advent reminds us that we ourselves are waiting.

We are waiting for far more than just Christmas Day and the commemoration of our Savior's birth. We are waiting for the Lord to come again in glory.

We have been waiting for that to happen for a long time. The first Christians thought it would occur in their lifetime, but they gradually came to realize that was not going to be the case. That realization led to the writing of the Gospels, the establishment of a structured Christian Community, and a realization that the Gospel had to be passed down and preached to coming generations.

Today we are part of that long line of Christians who have been waiting for almost 2,000 years for Jesus to come again. That wait has been so long that we may only recall our waiting for the Lord when we are at Mass. There we proclaim the mystery of faith that speaks of the Lord coming again. There we hear the priest pray that we may be "safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

In light of this continuous waiting, this Advent season might lead us to ask, "What is taking so long? How much longer will we have to wait for the Lord to come? When will that unexpected hour spoken of in this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44) finally arrive?"

However, the fact the Lord has not yet come is certainly to our benefit. If the Second Coming of the Lord had taken place before the year 1905 none of us would exist. We would never have been born for the world would have ended and God's kingdom would have come.

Perhaps the Lord has delayed his coming because our existence is part of his plan. Just as John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph, and all the figures of the Old Testament set the stage for the first coming of the Lord so we may be doing the same for the Second Coming of the Lord.

This Advent season reminds us that as we wait for the Lord's return, the Lord is waiting for everything to fall into place. That happened before the Lord came at Bethlehem and it is happening now as we await the second coming of Jesus the Lord.

As we wait, the Lord waits for us to set the stage for his return in glory.

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