

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, December 1, 2013

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.

DISTRACTED LIVING

Drugs and alcohol make driving a car dangerous and often deadly. That is why there are laws against driving while impaired. We do not want people on the road whose judgment and reflexes are negatively impacted by what they put into their bodies.

We also do not want people driving while they are texting, holding conversations on cell phones, setting their GPS, searching for a favorite song on their iPad, eating and drinking. Such actions divert a driver's eyes and attention from the road. Such distracted driving can lead to disaster.

While distracted driving is a problem so is distracted living. The Gospel for this Sunday (Matthew 24:37-44), the First Sunday of Advent and the start of the Liturgical Year of 2014, speaks of distractions that can cause people to divert their attention from what is of primary importance.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of people who "were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark." Even though Noah was building a large boat on dry land, away from any water, the people of Noah's day were so busy, so distracted with the usual activities of living that they did not consider the significance that the ark might have.

Jesus then speaks of the coming of the Son of Man. At that time, he says, "two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left." In other words, some will be saved and brought into the arms of God and others will be left – just as those at the time of Noah were left in the rain.

The ones taken will be those ready for the coming of the Son of Man. They will be people who are not so distracted by their daily work and demands of life that they have no time and attention to give to God.

We live in a society where driving while distracted is on the increase, but even more so is living while distracted. Sunday's Gospel and the Advent Season call us to be attentive to the Lord who is present in our world and who will return in glory. Remember, God wants our attention! God does not want us to be distracted.

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