

## **LOOKING TO SUNDAY™**

**Sunday, September 12, 2010**

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.

### **BROOM IN HAND**

Stained glass windows often depict God as the caring shepherd who seeks the lost sheep and as the loving father who welcomes back his prodigal son. Both those images appear in the parables proclaimed by Jesus in this Sunday's Gospel. (Luke 15:1-32) But that reading also includes another parable that I have never seen depicted in any church window. Jesus tells a parable in which God is pictured as a woman, broom in hand, frantically sweeping every inch of her house as she searches for a lost coin.

Perhaps that parable is not as well known because it is sandwiched between the two more famous parables of the shepherd searching for his lost sheep and the father welcoming home his lost son. Or perhaps it is because the parable speaks of God in feminine terms. God is depicted as a desperate housewife sweeping her home as she searches for what is lost.

All three parables make the same point. We repent, we turn from sin, we come back to the community of the Church not because of what we do but because of what God does. God finds the lost. The lost do not find their way back to God anymore than the lost sheep finds its shepherd, the lost coin finds its mistress, or on his own merits the lost son finds a place at the family table. God does the finding. God changes hearts. God touches us with forgiveness and grace.

The next time you search your home for your wallet, your glasses, or the remote control, think of God, broom in hand, sweeping the house in search of the lost coin, in search of the sinner. Now that is an image for a stained glass window, God with a broom!

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