

## ***LOOKING TO SUNDAY®***

**Sunday, December 18, 2011**

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.

### **THE POWER OF "YES"**

"Yes" is a powerful word. It can make things happen. It can change lives. A man and woman say "Yes" to their marriage vows and the two become one. A man and woman say "Yes" to life and they become a mother and father and their lives are never the same. Elected officials vote "Yes" and nations go to war and countless lives are affected. A man says "Yes" on the day of his ordination and his words are able to transform simple bread and wine into the presence of Christ. "Yes" is a powerful word.

A "Yes" uttered by a simple woman, living in a nondescript village in Judea was one of the most powerful words ever spoken. Her "Yes" brought forth something truly marvelous. So marvelous, in fact, that we have been celebrating what happened because of her "YES" for more than 2,000 years.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 1:26-38), we hear how the angel Gabriel came to Mary to announce she had been chosen to give birth to the long awaited Messiah. In response, Mary proclaimed "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Mary said "Yes" and Christmas happened.

Today, God asks things of us. God asks us to live the values of the Gospel. God asks us to care for the hungry, the suffering, and the powerless. God asks us to work for justice and peace. God asks us to live out the vows of our baptism. God asks us to reject greed, materialism, and selfishness. God asks us to gather each Sunday with our fellow Christians to give Him praise and worship and to witness to our faith.

If we say "Yes" to what God asks of us, then good things happen. God's kingdom grows a little bit more visible in our world. God's compassion and love touch the hurting. Jesus Christ takes on flesh in us and continues to walk this earth. Our "Yes" to God in things both big and small makes good things happen. We might say our "Yes" to God makes Christmas happen today. "Yes" is a powerful word indeed!

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