

LITURGY BYTES

Word of God Sunday



In 2019, in an Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis established that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time would be designated as “Sunday of the Word of God.” This happens to be today!

The Pope was hoping for the people of God “to truly appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people. Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.” (Aperuit Illis.2)

You might be asking what one must do to properly receive the Word of God proclaimed at Mass. The General Instruction tells that “the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone.” The Instruction also states that those who read the Scriptures at Mass must be “truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully prepared, so that by their hearing, the readings from the sacred texts, may conceive in the hearts of the faithful a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture.”

The key for us is the word “listening.” We are called to listen attentively as God’s Word is proclaimed by the Lector, the Deacon and/or the Priest. We should listen as we would if Christ himself were standing at the ambo. Some people prepare by reading the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday before coming to Mass. They can be found on the USCCB website if you have access to a computer. There is something to be said for preparing ourselves for what God’s Sacred Word will say to us. Most important of all, the Word of God which is living and active calls each of us individually and together for a response that moves beyond the liturgy itself and affects our daily lives, calling us to live out God’s message in our lives.

Have a healthy, blessed, and safe week ahead! ~~ *Michele Hall*