



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes
All Clergy

TRG

From: Archbishop Gagnon

Date: January 9, 2020

Re: Sunday of the Word of God

As you are aware Pope Francis has declared that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time will now be known as "Sunday of the Word of God". On January 26, 2020, with local Churches throughout the world, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg will celebrate this occasion for the first time.

In the Motu Proprio dedicating this Sunday, *Aperuit Illis*, Pope Francis states: "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 treasures of his work and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." (#2)

The Pope's call to observe the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as "the Sunday of the Word of God" falls in nicely with our Synod Implementation.

As you are aware a key recommendation of the Synod delegates is that "we encourage all the baptized to acquire a familiarity with sacred scripture. (#35) To that end we have been encouraged, as an Archdiocese, to incorporate *Lectio Divina* into our way of life. The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time might provide another opportunity to emphasize the importance of breaking open the Word of God or *Lectio Divina* with our parishes.

Parishes may wish to highlight the Sunday of the Word of God in many possible ways. Examples of how this can be done might include: preaching the Sunday homily on the Word of God in the life of all Christians, insert a notice in the parish bulletin or on the parish website about *Lectio Divina*, ensure that the Book of Gospels is used on Sundays, have a special blessing for the Lectors in the parish, encourage a daily reading of the Word of God.

This is the first year that we will celebrate the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time as "the Sunday of the Word of God." In the coming years we will continue to develop the way we celebrate this day in the life of the Church.