

## **Bulletin Article #9 = First Reading (Old Testament Reading...mostly)**

Now that we have begun reflecting on the Liturgy of the Word, the first part of that reflection is of course the First Reading. The first reading from Scripture during Mass is almost always from the Old Testament (for example, the first reading is from the New Testament during the Easter Season). The Catholic Church tries to choose specific readings from the Old Testament that have some connection with the Gospel reading (and sometimes also the Psalm and the Second Reading as well). This is because we should consistently be reflecting on God's plan of salvation history throughout all of time according to His providence and guidance. The Old Testament shows how God has always been working within historical events to prepare for His coming in the person of Jesus. Jesus Christ fulfills all of God's promises to His chosen people (and for all people of all times and places) and brings the new reality of the Church to this earth, which includes the new way we relate to Him at Mass and in the Scriptures and in our lives as well. Even though the Old Testament readings can be hard at times to fully understand upon first reading or hearing about each specific passage, once it is read in light of Jesus' fulfillment in the New Testament, most people can often see the connection or pull out the meaning from each reading (and hopefully the priest can help with this as well during his homily!). Do we believe that God has a plan for all of human history? Do we believe that God can confirm the good and condemn the evil? Do we believe His has a plan for our lives and is guiding our lives providentially? We can encounter this love of God in and through the Old Testament readings, which our found in the First Reading just about every single Sunday during the Church Year. May we ask God for a renewed grace of seeing His presence and His Word to us within the First Reading, and may we prepare our hearts each weekend to encounter Him who comes to us in His Word in the Scriptures and in His Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and in our souls. God Bless you.