

### **Bulletin Article #11 = Second Reading (New Testament – The Church Alive!)**

It would seem like the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading during Mass would always correlate with the 1<sup>st</sup> reading and the Psalm, however, often it has nothing to do with those first two scripture passages at Mass [as far as having the same exact theme as those two readings and the Gospel reading]. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading is almost always from the books of the New Testament (one of the 23 NT books because it never includes passages from the 4 Gospels), but the Church decided to often give it a separate track and a separate flow throughout the Church year. For this reason, you may hear a Catholic priest preach only on the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading (even sometimes for a couple weeks in a row), and not mention the other readings during his homily. However, the main exception to this separate track idea is that during some of the big seasons of celebration or preparation in the Church (Advent & Christmas OR Lent & Easter), the Church has decided to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading as explicitly corresponding to the theme of the first two scripture passages. We will go into this more when we reflect on the Gospel reading in a couple of weeks, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in those cases (and in general) is always trying to show us how the Church is the fulfillment of God's chosen people in throughout the Old Testament as well as how Jesus is alive and active in the Church and the hearts and souls of his followers here and now! May we ask God to help pay close attention to the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading each and every weekend, so that we can see the Church come to life; not only back then 2,000 years ago through the eyes of St. Paul, St. Peter, and all the Early Christians, but also to see the Church come to life in our day and age and how the words of Scripture can speak into our lives in that way so we can become the Church Alive!