

## What Do We Do? Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn  
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Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18



The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the Messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The Messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose - to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see [Luke 3:3](#); [5:32](#); [24:47](#)).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a two-fold "turning" – turning away from sin (see [Ezekiel 3:19](#); [18:30](#)) and toward God (see [Sirach 17:20-21](#); [Hosea 6:1](#)).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life-change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see [Luke 3:8](#)). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, ask from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring, not from our fear of coming wrath (see [Luke 3:7-9](#)), but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice!...The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare [Luke 1:28-31](#)). Mary is the Daughter Zion - the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Savior."

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

<b>Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup></b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Sylvio Durinzi – RIP – by the family
<b>Sun. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Ada Boisvert – RIP – by daughter Pauline
11:00 a.m.	Ricardo Timbol and Luisa Garcia – RIP – by the Timbol family
<b>Mon. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tues. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup></b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Deceased and Living Members of the Tomaz & Leite-Melo Family – by Maria
<b>Wed. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> William Marino – RIP – by Eugene Rodrigues
<b>Thurs. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Pope Francis – Birthday Blessings - by Leah
<b>Fri. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> For all the Souls in Purgatory – by Phil
<b>Sat. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup></b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Harry Caragians – RIP – by Jeannine Rolland
<b>Sun. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Brendan Lacroix – Birthday Blessings – by Mom and family
11:00 a.m.	Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family

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**Collection:** December 6, 2015 - **\$3,108.65**  
**...Thank you for your generosity.**

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### *Schedule of Masses*

December 24 <sup>th</sup> (Regular Mass)	- 9 A.M.
December 24 <sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)	- 8 P.M. and 10 P.M.
December 25 <sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)	- 11 A.M.
December 26 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	- 10 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.
December 27 <sup>th</sup> (Regular Mass)	- 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.
December 28 <sup>th</sup> (Monday)	- 9 A.M.
December 29 <sup>th</sup> (Regular Mass)	- 7 P.M.
December 30 <sup>th</sup> (Regular Mass)	- 9 A.M.
December 31 <sup>st</sup> (Regular Mass)	- 9 A.M.
December 31 <sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve)	- 4:30 P.M.
January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2016 (New Year's Day)	- 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.

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### *Notice of A Meeting of Parishioners*

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of parishioners will be held on December 20, 2015, immediately after the 11 a.m. mass, for the purpose of electing two wardens of the fabrique.

### *Be My Disciples News*

**Advent Christmas Tree** – During Advent we will continue to sell the Advent “Christmas tree ornaments” for \$2.00 each to benefit CHALICE and their many good works in various developing countries. During the week, there will be a basket at the front of the church, near Our Lady of Fatima altar. Please take an ornament and leave your donation. This year, you may take your ornament home with you and hang it up on your own tree. Thank you for your great generosity and support!

**Be My Disciples** classes will take place next Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, as usual.

### *Christmas Flower Donations*

If you would like to donate money for Christmas flowers to beautify our Church, you can place the money in an envelope (marked Christmas flowers) and put it in the collection basket with your name and envelope number (for your income tax receipt at year end). Thank you for your generosity.

### *Envelopes for 2016 Sunday Offerings*

Envelopes for 2016 Sunday offerings are at the front of the Church. **PLEASE TAKE ONLY THE BOX WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON IT.** If you have never used the envelopes and wish to start, please ask for a new box at the Rectory or call (514) 747-4226 during office hours (8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.) to register. **We request all users to please put your name and address on the first few envelopes for the New Year to ensure proper recording.** Thank you.

The Pope's Prayer Intentions for December 2015

Entrusted to the Apostleship of Prayer

**UNIVERSAL:**

**EXPERIENCING GOD'S MERCY**

**That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.**