

## The Road Home:

### Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn

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Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-6; Philippians 1:4-6,8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Today's Psalm paints a dream-like scene - a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.



It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope - that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds - in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the One who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile - led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration, conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see [Baruch 5:5](#)). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin, if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare [Jeremiah 1:1-4,11](#)). But John is greater than the prophets (see [Luke 7:27](#)). He's preparing the way, not only for a new redemption of Israel, but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also [Acts 28:28](#)).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m.

4:30 p.m.

**Weekday (First Saturday)**

Rosa Maria, Leo & Antonio  
Borges – RIP – by Nelson and  
Teresa Alvares

Florence Gadwah – RIP – by  
Janet Prasad

**Sun. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Damiano Durinzi – RIP – by the  
family

Roberto Farias – RIP – by Maria

**Mon. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

**NO MASS**

**Tues. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception of  
Mary**

Deceased and Living Members of  
the Branco and Ponte Family –  
by Maria

**Wed. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.

**Saint Juan Diego**

Hipolito Borje – RIP – by the  
family

**Thurs. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.

**Weekday**

Denise Lachance – Blessings –  
by Ginette Massy

**Fri. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.

**Saint Damasus I**

Ada Boisvert – RIP – by Pauline

**Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**

4:30 p.m.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Sylvio Durinzi – RIP – by the  
family

**Sun. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Ada Boisvert – RIP – by  
daughter Pauline

Ricardo Timbol and Luisa Garcia  
– RIP – by the Timbol family

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**Collection: November 29, 2015 - \$2,999.00**

**...Thank you for your generosity.**

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### *Be My Disciples News*

**Christmas Pageant** – Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. This event, put on by Be My Disciples and including all children, will remind us of the **real** meaning of Christmas. The Pageant will be held after the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass. All parishioners are invited to attend. Please bring non-perishable food items, or appropriately-marked gifts (gender and age) for OASIS. The Pageant will be followed by a light supper. Please mark the date on your calendars! We will be happy to welcome you!

**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 payment. 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!

### *Christmas Flower Donations*

If you would like to donate money to buy 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.

### *Help Decorating the Church*

The decorating committee could really use a few extra hands (especially strong ones) to help decorate our Church. The tree, stable and nativity figures need to be brought out and later put away. If you have a little extra time, your help would be really appreciated on our team. Please contact Irene at [514-919-6649](tel:514-919-6649).

### *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.

### *Sunday Missals*

If you would like to have your own copy, the 2015-2016 Sunday Missals are still available after every Mass. The cost is \$6.00 each. There is a collection plate beside the Missals for the people to put their money in.