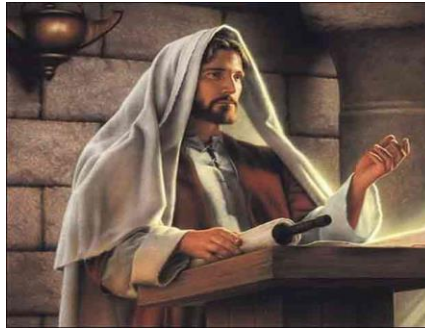


New Day Dawns: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn

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Nehemiah 8:2-6,10; Psalms 19:8-10,15; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30;
Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21



The meaning of today's Liturgy is subtle and many-layered.

We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading.

Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see [Ezra 6:15-17](#)) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see [Nehemiah 6:15](#)).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see [Nehemiah 8:8](#)) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3-4; see also [Isaiah 60:10](#)); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; [Exodus 19:6](#)) and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; [Isaiah 55:3](#)). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare [Luke 4:16-17,21](#) and [Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10](#)).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see [Leviticus 23:24](#)). Jesus too proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see [Leviticus 25:10](#))

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God - the Church - is made "one body" with Him.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
January 23rd – 31st, 2016

Sat. Jan. 23rd
4:30 p.m.

Weekday
Paciencia Manzo Manzanal and
Domenico Inga – RIP – by
Jerry Roy

Sun. Jan. 24th
9:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Maria Espirito Santo Melo Ponte
– RIP – by Kevin Smith

11:00 a.m.

Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the
family

Mon. Jan. 25th

Conversion of Saint Paul
For Vocations to the Priesthood

Tues. Jan. 26th
7:00 p.m.

Saints Timothy and Titus
For Souls in Purgatory

Wed. Jan. 27th
9:00 a.m.

Saint Angela Merici
For Souls in Purgatory

Thurs. Jan. 28th
9:00 a.m.

Saint Thomas Aquinas
For the People (*Pro Populo*)

Fri. Jan. 29th
9:00 a.m.

Weekday
For Souls in Purgatory

Sat. Jan. 30th
4:30 p.m.

Weekday
Helen mikus – RIP – by
husband and family


Sun. Jan. 31st
9:00 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary
Time**
Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the
family

11:00 a.m.

Irene and Urban Bourdon –
Thanksgiving – by Irene and
Donald

Collection: January 10, 2016 - **\$2,142.10**
...Thank you for your generosity.



Special Mass on January 25th

Everyone is invited to a Special Mass on Monday, January 25th at 9:00 a.m., to celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, and to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Conversion of Saint Paul



St. Paul was born at Tarsus, Cilicia, of Jewish parents who were descended from the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Roman citizen from birth. As he was "a young man" at the stoning of Stephen and "an old man" when writing to Philemon, about the year 63, he was probably born around the beginning of the Christian era.

To complete his schooling, St. Paul was sent to Jerusalem, where he sat at the feet of the learned Gamaliel and was educated in the strict observance of the ancestral Law. Here he also acquired a good knowledge of exegesis and was trained in the practice of disputation. As a convinced and zealous Pharisee, he returned to Tarsus before the public life of Christ opened in Palestine.

Some time after the death of Our Lord, St. Paul returned to Palestine. His profound conviction made his zeal develop to a religious fanaticism against the infant Church. He took part in the stoning of the first martyr, St. Stephen, and in the fierce persecution of the Christians that followed.

Entrusted with a formal mission from the high priest, he departed for Damascus to arrest the Christians there and bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was nearing Damascus, about noon, a light from heaven suddenly blazed round him. Jesus with His glorified body appeared to him and addressed him, turning him away from his apparently successful career.

An immediate transformation was wrought in the soul of St. Paul. He was suddenly converted to the Christian Faith. He was baptized, changed his name from Saul to Paul, and began travelling and preaching the Faith. He was martyred as an Apostle in Rome around 65 AD. —
Excerpted from Lives of the Saints (Copyright 2016 www.catholicculture.org)