

## Counsel of Jerusalem: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn

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Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23;  
John 14:23-29



The first Church council, the Council of Jerusalem we hear about in today's First Reading, decided the shape of the Church as we know it.

Some Jewish Christians had wanted Gentile converts to be circumcised and obey all the complex ritual and purity laws of the Jews.

The council called this a heresy, again showing us that the Church in the divine plan is meant to be a worldwide family of God, no longer a covenant with just one nation.

Today's Liturgy gives us a profound meditation on the nature and meaning of the Church.

The Church is One, as we see in the First Reading: "the Apostles [bishops] and presbyters [priests], in agreement with the whole Church [laity]."

The Church is Holy, taught and guided by the Spirit that Jesus promises the Apostles in the Gospel.

The Church is Catholic, or universal, making known God's ways of salvation to all peoples, ruling all in equity, as we sing in today's Psalm.

And the Church, as John sees in the Second Reading, is Apostolic - founded on the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

All these marks of the Church are underscored in the story of the council. Notice that everybody, including Paul, looks to "Jerusalem [and] ...the Apostles" to decide the Church's true teaching. The Apostles, too, presume that Christian teachers need a "mandate from us."

And we see the Spirit guiding the Apostles in all truth. Notice how they describe their ruling: "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us."

Knowing these truths about the Church, our hearts should never be troubled. The Liturgy's message today is that the Church is the Lord's, watched over and guarded by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit sent by the Father in the name of the Son.

This should fill us with confidence, free us to worship with exultation, inspire us to rededicate our lives to His Name - to love Jesus in our keeping of His Word, to rejoice that He and the Father in the Spirit have made their dwelling with us.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Sat. Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
4:30 p.m.

**Saint Pius V**  
Joaquina Moniz Tomaz and Joao Leite  
Melo – RIP – by Maria Ponte

**Sun. May 1<sup>st</sup>**  
9:00 a.m.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Thomas Kennedy – RIP – by Pat

11:00 a.m.

Paciencia Manzo Manzanal – RIP – by  
Jerry and Ofelia Roy

**Mon. May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**NO MASS**

**Tues. May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
7:00 p.m.

**Saint Philip and Saint James**  
Rose Mangahas – RIP – by the  
Wardens

**Wed. May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 a.m.

**Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis**  
Helen Coleman – RIP – by Joan

**Thurs. May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 a.m.

**Weekday**  
Ross O' Donnell – RIP – by Joan

**7:00 p.m.**

**HEALING MASS**

**Fri. May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 a.m.

**Weekday**  
For Souls in Purgatory – by Phil

**Sat. May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00 a.m.

**Weekday**  
Marel – For Healing – by Cathy

4:30 p.m.

Gilda Pednekar – RIP – by Be My  
Disciples Catechists

**Sun. May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 a.m.

**Ascension of the Lord**  
Nina Asconi – RIP – by the Ladies'  
Auxiliary

11:00 a.m.

Luisa Bencito Atas and Rosalina  
Mojica – by the family

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***Called Home To The Father***

*Our deepest sympathy to the family of baby **Julia Mary Pizzardi**. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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**Collection: April 24, 2016 - \$2,543.65**

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

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## CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

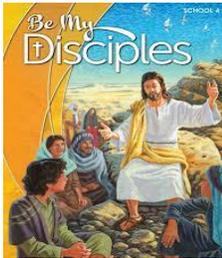
The office hours have been temporarily changed. The new office hours are 9:00am to 2:00pm from Monday to Friday, until further notice. Thank you.

## HEALING MINISTRY - MAY 5



As one of the activities in preparation for the Consecration of the Church, there will be mass with prayers for healing on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday at 7:00 P.M. to be presided by Bishop Thomas Dowd. If you have health condition, or want to bring someone who has, this service is for you!

## BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 27 children will celebrate their **First Reconciliation**. Please let us keep all these children in our prayers.

**The MARIAN EVENING** is on Saturday, May 7, immediately following the 4:30 p.m. Mass. It is an evening of praise and devotion to our Blessed Mother. **Everyone is welcome!**

**Please come and join us to pray the Candlelight Rosary!** If you have attended before, you know that it is a blessing; if you have not, come and find out for yourself the power of community prayer.

Following the rosary, we will have a hot dog supper. Everyone is welcome to join us. The contribution is \$3.00 each to help defray the costs. Please let Connie Kuhr know if you are coming for the supper. In order to buy enough food, we need to know how many people to expect. **See you all there!**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

May 7, 2016 - 2:00 p.m. - **FIRST RECONCILIATION** - for all children preparing for First Communion

May 7, 2016 - **Marian Evening** - Everyone is welcome!

May 14, 2016 - 4:30 p.m. Mass - **CONFIRMATION**

May 28, 2016 - 4:30 p.m. Mass - **FIRST COMMUNION**

## COFFEE SUNDAY

Hosted by the **Wardens**, everyone is cordially invited to a "Coffee Sunday" on **May 8<sup>th</sup>**, after the 11 A.M. Mass at the Church Hall.

## A WORD OF THANKS

"We are very grateful for the warm welcome we have received at your parish and for the important donation you have given us which amounted to \$916.75. Through your generosity, you are participating in our mission in the Church. We ask you to continue to pray that the name of Jesus be known and loved especially in Malawi and Zambia where I have worked. God bless you all." - Sr. Yvonne and the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.