

# In a Dark Hour: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday in Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn  
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Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44



Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again.

He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah. In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7). It is time we start living like it—throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

<b>Sat. Nov. 26<sup>th</sup></b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday Mass of Anticipation</b> Felix O. Manzanal – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
<b>Sun. Nov. 27<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>First Sunday of Advent (Year A)</b> Jeon Matthew Ching – RIP – by the family
11:00 a.m.	Feliks Rewers – RIP – by Wanda
<b>Mon. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tues. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup></b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Franc Kebe – RIP – by the Kebe family
<b>Wed. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Saint Andrew</b> Theresa Castillo & Santiago Buguis – RIP – by Elena
<b>Thurs. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> Nicholas and Ida Gang – RIP – by Maria Keller & family
<b>Fri. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Weekday</b> For Souls in Purgatory – by Phil
<b>Sat. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Saint Francis Xavier</b> In Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit – by the Kebe family
<b>Sat. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday Mass of Anticipation</b> Olga and Fawzi Bichai – RIP – by the family
<b>Sun. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Florence Gadwah – RIP – by Janet Prasad
11:00 a.m.	Damiano Durinzi – RIP – by the family

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***Called Home To The Father***

*Our deepest sympathy to the family of **John Nathaniel Sinclair**. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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**Collection:**

November 20, 2016 - **\$3,353.30**

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

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## **ADVENT: A TIME OF WAITING, CONVERSION & HOPE**

**Waiting:** the memory of the first, humble coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh; and for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and universal Judge.

**Conversion:** to which the Liturgy at this time often refers, quoting the prophets, especially John the Baptist, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Joyful hope:** that the salvation already accomplished by Christ and the reality of grace in the world, will mature and reach their fullness, thereby granting us what is promised by faith, and "we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is" (John 3,2).

### **ADVENT WREATH**

Placing four candles on green fronds in an Advent Wreath has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes, especially in the Germanic countries and in North America. The Advent wreath, with the progressive lighting of its four candles, Sunday after Sunday, until the Solemnity of Christmas, is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of justice (cf. Mt 3,20; Lk 1,78)

### **BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS**

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** - Thank you for taking part again in our Christmas "**shoe boxes**" project! Thanks to your wonderful generosity, our parish filled up 81 boxes and donated \$146.00, besides all the individual amounts which were enclosed in sealed envelopes in the boxes. A big "Thank You" to Frank Kebe and Maggie Megelas for all the leg work in getting the boxes and ensuring that they were delivered to the depot in time to be sent to their final destination. Your heart-warming generosity will be very much appreciated by all the children who will receive these boxes! It is a testament of our sharing of love, peace and faith as we await the birth of our Lord, Jesus, at Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS** – Today, the first Sunday of Advent, young people from Be My Disciples will be at the doors of the church selling the "Christmas tree ornaments" to benefit CHALICE and their many good works in various developing countries. During Advent we will continue to sell the "tree ornaments" for \$2.00 each. During the week, there will be a basket at the front of the church. 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 or give it as a gift for a friend's tree. Thank you for your great generosity and support!

### **SUNDAY MISSALS**

The 2016-2017 Sunday Missals are now 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.

### **PARISH PHOTO ALBUM**

The Photograph Directories are in. Anyone who took an individual or family picture is entitled to receive one. A few directories are available for \$15,00 each for anyone else who would like to have one. Please pick them up at the rectory on Sunday after the Masses or from Leonora during the week. If you have any questions about this, please contact Connie. Thank you.