

Here is Your God: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 146:6-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11



John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18-20; 61:1-2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25-34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongues to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 10th – December 18th, 2016

Sat. Dec. 10th 4:30 p.m.	Sunday Mass of Anticipation Sylvio Durinzi – RIP – by the family
Sun. Dec. 11th 9:00 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent Ada Boisvert – RIP – by Pauline
11:00 a.m.	Rodolfo Vinet – RIP – by Irene & Rene Vinet
Mon. Dec. 12th	NO MASS
Tues. Dec. 13th 7:00 p.m.	Saint Lucy Ricardo Timbol and Luisa Garcia – RIP – by the Timbol & Garcia family
Wed. Dec. 14th 9:00 a.m.	Saint John of the Cross Maria E. S. Melo – RIP by Luis Ponte
Thurs. Dec. 15th 9:00 a.m.	Weekday Annasamypillai Aloysius – RIP – by Julia & family
Fri. Dec. 16th 9:00 a.m.	Weekday Pope Francis – Birthday Blessings – by Leah
Sat. Dec. 17th 4:30 p.m.	Sunday Mass of Anticipation Felix O. Manzanal – RIP – by Jerry & Ofelia Roy
Sun. Dec. 18th 9:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent Leo, Rosa Maria and Anthony Borges – RIP – by the Alvares family
11:00 a.m.	Malcolm and Margaret Leekam – RIP – by Leah

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.***

Collection:

December 4, 2016 - **\$3,148.70**

First Saturday Collection (December 3, 2016): **\$61.30**

...Thank you for your generosity.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 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.

ENVELOPES FOR 2017 SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Envelopes for 2017 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 (9 A.M. to 2:00 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.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – Saturday, December 17th. 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS – During Advent, the Be My Disciples team will continue to sell the “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. 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

If you would like to have your own copy, the 2016-2017 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.