

New Song: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
Copyright 2016 www.salvationhistory.com
Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalms 98:1–6; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–18



The Church's liturgy rings in Christmas with a joyful noise. We hear today of uplifted voices, trumpets and horns, and melodies of praise.

In the First Reading, Isaiah foretells Israel's liberation from captivity and exile in Babylon. He envisions a triumphant homecoming to Zion marked by joyful singing.

The new song in today's Psalm is a victory hymn to the marvelous deeds done by our God and King.

Both the prophet and psalmist sing of God's power and salvation. God has shown the might of His holy arm, they say. This language recalls the Exodus, where the people first sang of God's powerful arm that shattered Israel's enemy Egypt (see Exod. 15:1, 6, 16).

The coming of the Christ child into the world fulfills all that the Exodus and the return from exile prefigured.

In Jesus, all nations to the ends of the earth will see the victory of God over the forces of sin and death.

Jesus is the new King. He is the royal firstborn son and Son of God promised to David, as we hear in today's Epistle (see Ps. 2:7; 2 Sam. 7:14).

And as our Gospel reveals, He is the Word of God, the one through whom the universe was created, the one through whom the universe is sustained.

In speaking to us through His Son, God has unveiled a new age, the last days.

The new age is a new creation. In the beginning, God spoke His Word and light shone in the darkness. Now, in this new age, He sends us the true light to scatter the darkness of a world that has exiled itself from God.

He is the one Isaiah foretold – who brings good tidings of peace and salvation, who announces to the world that God has come to dwell and to reign (see Rev. 21:3–4).

So we sing a new song on Christmas. It is the song of those who have believed in the Christ child and been born again – by grace given the power to become children of God.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 24th, 2016 – January 1st, 2017

Saturday 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Dec. 24th	Christmas Eve In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received – by Leo and Lavinia Philomena Palmieri – RIP – by Ron and Carolyn
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 25th	Christmas: Nativity of the Lord In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of the Rule – by TJ and Edna Sorono For the People (<i>Pro Populo</i>)
Monday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 26th	Saint Stephen Father Brent Alexis – Thanksgiving and Blessings – by the Leekam family
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 27th	Saint John Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 28th	Holy Innocents Thanksgiving by Alyssa Mae Villahermosa
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 29th	Saint Thomas Becket In Gratitude to the Divine Mercy and Saint Anthony – by Mercedes
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 30th	Holy Family Kay Desrochers – RIP – by Phil
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 31st	New Year's Eve Alvaro Lopez Jr. – Birthday Blessings – by the Lopez family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 1st	Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day) Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary – RIP – by the Legion of Mary For the People (<i>Pro Populo</i>)

*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 18, 2016 - **\$2,972.80**

...Thank you for your generosity.

Merry Christmas!

The clergy, wardens, and pastoral team of Our Lady of Fatima Parish
join in wishing you every blessing this Christmas;
in your homes, families, schools, and places of work.



SAINTLY WISDOM

“Every time Christmas comes around, I love to look at representations of the child Jesus. Statues and pictures which show a God who lowered himself remind me that God is calling us. The Almighty wants us to know that he is defenseless, that he needs men’s help. From the cradle at Bethlehem, Christ tells you and me that he needs us. He urges us to live a Christian life to the full — a life of self-sacrifice, work and joy.” – Saint Josemaria Escriva

FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN (December 26th)

There will be a mass on Monday at 9am, to celebrate the feast of Saint Stephen, the first martyr.

SAINT STEPHEN



“Today the Liturgy recalls the witness of St Stephen, who, chosen by the Apostles, along with six others, to carry out the diaconry of charity, that is, to attend to the poor, the orphans, the widows in the community of Jerusalem, became the first martyr of the Church. Stephen, through his martyrdom, honours the coming of the King of Kings into the world, he bears witness to Him and offers up his very life, as he did in his service to the most needy. And he thereby shows us how to live the mystery of Christmas in its fullness. [...]

Today, brothers and sisters, let us pray in a special way for those who are discriminated against, persecuted and killed for bearing witness to Christ. I would like to say to each one of them: if you bear this cross with love, you have entered into the mystery of Christmas, you are in the heart of Christ and of the Church.” – Pope Francis

HOLY FAMILY (December 30th)



“To contemplate the Holy Family enables us to appreciate the gift of family intimacy in a special way, and spurs us to offer human warmth and solidarity in those unfortunately numerous situations which, for various reasons, lack peace, harmony, in a word, lack ‘family’. The message that comes from the Holy Family is first of all a message of faith: the family of Nazareth is a home which truly centers on God.

For Mary and Joseph, this choice of faith becomes concrete in their service to the Son of God entrusted to their care, but it is also expressed in their mutual love, rich in spiritual tenderness and fidelity. With their life, they teach that marriage is a covenant between man and woman, a covenant that involves reciprocal fidelity and rests upon their common trust in God—such a noble, profound and definitive covenant, as to constitute for believers the sacrament of love of Christ and of the Church. The spouses' fidelity stands like a solid rock on which the children's trust rests. When parents and children together breathe this atmosphere of faith they have a ready energy that enables them to face even difficult trials, as the Holy Family's experience shows.”

- Saint John Paul II

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (January 1st)

The Solemnity of **Mary, Mother of God**, a day of holy obligation, falls on Sunday this year, therefore we will have usual weekend mass schedule: Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 9am & 11am.