

# Children of God: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn  
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Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21



Today we give thanks to Mary, the Mother of God. Her response to the angel, born of a humble heart, brought us life and salvation in the Child conceived in her womb.

From before all ages, God had destined her for this decisive role in salvation history. She was to be the woman who in the fullness of time would bear God's only Son, as Paul tells us in today's Epistle.

In times past, God spoke to His chosen people, the Israelites, through prophets (see Hebrews 1:1-2), and imparted His blessings upon them through His priests, as we hear in today's First Reading.

But now, He has sent His Son—to reveal His glory and His kingdom, to make His way of salvation known to all nations, as we sing in today's Psalm. In the Infant lying in the manger, God has shone His face upon us (see John 14:8-9).

Jesus is made a child of Israel, an heir of God's covenant with Abraham, by His circumcision in today's Gospel (see Genesis 17:1-14). And we have been made adopted sons and daughters by Baptism, which is the circumcision of Christ, the true circumcision (see Colossians 2:11; Philippians 3:3).

As children of God, Paul says today, we are heirs of the Father's blessings, which He promised to bestow on all peoples through the descendants of Abraham (see Genesis 12:3;22:18; Galatians 3:14). This is the blessing which Aaron imparted to Israel, the people descended from Abraham. And this blessing comes to us through Mary and the Child.

This is the good news of great joy that the shepherds make known in Bethlehem today (see Luke 2:10).

Like the shepherds, we too should make haste today to find Jesus with Mary and Joseph, and to glorify God for His blessings. And like Mary, we should keep His word and reflect upon it, letting it dwell richly in our hearts (see Colossians 3:16).

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

|                                          |                             |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b><br>4:30 p.m.             | <b>Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>New Year's Eve</b><br>Alvaro Lopez Jr. – Birthday Blessings<br>– by the Lopez family                                                                          |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>9:00 a.m.<br>11:00 a.m. | <b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b>Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)</b><br>Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary – RIP – by the Legion of Mary<br>For the People ( <i>Pro Populo</i> ) |
| <b>Monday</b>                            | <b>Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | <b>NO MASS</b>                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>7:00 p.m.              | <b>Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>Most Holy Name of Jesus</b><br>Jean-Paul Caron – RIP – by the Massy family                                                                                    |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>9:00 a.m.            | <b>Jan. 4<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Weekday</b><br>Jean-Paul Caron – RIP – by the Massy family                                                                                                    |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>9:00 a.m.             | <b>Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Weekday</b><br>Blessings for Raymond Abboud and family                                                                                                        |
| <b>Friday</b><br>9:00 a.m.               | <b>Jan. 6<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Weekday</b><br>For the Holy Family – by the Ferraro family                                                                                                    |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>10:00 a.m.            | <b>Jan. 7<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Saint Andre Bessette</b><br>Gloria David – RIP – by Julia and family                                                                                          |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>4:30 p.m.               | <b>Jan. 7<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Sunday Mass of Anticipation</b><br>Hugh Boisvert – RIP – by Pauline                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>9:00 a.m.<br>11:00 a.m. | <b>Jan. 8<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b><br>Elizabeth Csaki – RIP – by her loving family<br>Feliks Rewers – RIP – by Wanda Rewers                                             |

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***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.***

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**Collection:**

December 25, 2016 - **\$8,058.25**  
*Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,047.55*  
*Christmas Offering - \$5,010.70*

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

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### COFFEE SUNDAY



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

### 2017 SCHEDULE OF COFFEE SUNDAY HOSTS

|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| January 8    | - Couples for Christ |
| February 12  | - Legion of Mary     |
| March 12     | - Be my Disciples    |
| April 16     | - Wardens            |
| May 14       | - Couples for Christ |
| June 11      | - Legion of Mary     |
| July 9       | - Be My disciples    |
| August 13    | - Wardens            |
| September 10 | - Couples for Christ |
| October 8    | - Legion of Mary     |
| November 12  | - Be My Disciples    |
| December 10  | - Wardens            |

### THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS (January 3)

Since New Testament times, the name of Jesus has been honoured. Paul writes that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11).

- Living with Christ, January 2017

### SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE (January 7)



Known to millions simply as Brother André, Alfred Bessette was born in St-Gregoire, Quebec, in 1845. Orphaned by the age of 12, he was unschooled, small and sickly. In 1870, he joined the Congregation of Holy Cross. For the next 40 years, he was porter at the College Notre-Dame on Queen Mary Road in Montreal, where he excelled at hospitality. In the course of his duties, he welcomed the sick and the afflicted, and it was his habit to pray with them through the intercession of Saint Joseph. He gained a

reputation throughout the city and, as he was credited with extraordinary favours and with healings, more and more people came to the college to seek out the 'Miracle Man of Montreal'.

Possessed of a deep love for Saint Joseph, Brother André erected a statue of the saint on the mountain across from the college. Then, assisted by lay friends in 1904, he built a wooden chapel on the mountain. Over the years, the chapel grew into a basilica. Today, Saint Joseph's oratory welcomes more than two million visitors each year. Its founder lived to be 91, was declared blessed in 1982, and canonized on October 17, 2010. Saint André Bessette is the patron of family caregivers in Canada (Living with Christ, January 2017).