

History Redeemed: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 27:1,4,13-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17;
Matthew 4:12-23



Today's Liturgy gives us a lesson in ancient Israelite geography and history.

Isaiah's prophecy in today's First Reading is quoted by Matthew in today's Gospel. Both intend to recall the apparent fall of the everlasting kingdom promised to David (see 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11-12).

Eight centuries before Christ, that part of the kingdom where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali lived was attacked by the Assyrians and the tribes were hauled off into captivity (see 2 Kings 15:29; 1 Chronicles 5:26).

It marked the beginning of the kingdom's end. It finally crumbled in the sixth century B.C., when Jerusalem was seized by Babylon and the remaining tribes were driven into exile (see 2 Kings 24:14).

Isaiah prophesied that Zebulun and Naphtali, the lands first to be degraded, would be the first to see the light of God's salvation. Jesus today fulfills that prophecy—announcing the restoration of David's kingdom at precisely the spot where the kingdom began to fall.

His gospel of the Kingdom includes not only the twelve tribes of Israel but all the nations—symbolized by the "Galilee of the Nations." Calling His first disciples, two fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, He appoints them to be "fishers of men"—gathering people from the ends of the earth.

They are to preach the gospel, Paul says in today's Epistle, to unite all peoples in the same mind and in the same purpose—in a worldwide kingdom of God.

By their preaching, Isaiah's promise has been delivered. A world in darkness has seen the light. The yoke of slavery and sin, borne by humanity since time began, has been smashed.

And we are able now, as we sing in today's Psalm, to dwell in the house of the Lord, to worship Him in the land of the living.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
January 21st – 29th, 2017

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 21st	Sunday Mass of Anticipation Deceased and Living Members of the Rodrigues Family – by Leo and Lavinia
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 22nd	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Personal Intentions – by Teresa Rico Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family
Monday	Jan. 23rd	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Jan. 24th	Saint Francis de Sales Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 25th	CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL Joseph Dissler – RIP – by the Yvorchuk family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 26th	Saints Timothy and Titus Fiodor Popovici – RIP – by Eleanor Alesi
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 27th	Saint Angela Merici Thanksgiving and Special Intentions – by Elena
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 28th	Sunday Mass of Anticipation Gerald O'Donnell – RIP – by Charles Brocklehurst
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 29th	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Colleen Carriere Savage – RIP – by Lorraine Carriere & Patricia Armstrong In Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity – by Mercedes and family

Called Home To The Father

*Our deepest sympathy to the families of **Elfina Rosales** and **Eugene Rodrigues**. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

Collection:

January 15, 2017 - **\$3,603.20**

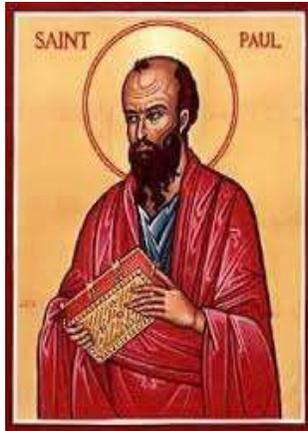
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SAINTLY PRAYER

"My Lord and Creator, Your goodness encourages me to converse with You. Your mercy abolishes the chasm which separates the Creator from the creature. To converse with You, O Lord, is the delight of my heart. In You I find everything that my heart could desire. Here Your light illumines my mind, enabling it to know You more and more deeply. Here streams of grace flow down upon my heart. Here my soul draws eternal life. O my Lord and Creator, You alone, beyond all these gifts, give Your own self to me and unite Yourself intimately with Your miserable creature.

O Christ, let my greatest delight be to see You loved and Your praise and glory proclaimed, especially the honor of Your mercy. O Christ, let me glorify Your goodness and mercy to the last moment of my life, with every drop of my blood and every beat of my heart. Would that I be transformed into a hymn of adoration of You. When I find myself on my deathbed, may the last beat of my heart be a loving hymn glorifying Your unfathomable mercy. Amen." - *Saint Faustina*

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL (January 25)



The conversion of Paul was a turning point in the history of the early Church. Saul, as Paul was first known, was a tentmaker from Tarsus who zealously persecuted the followers of Christ. While travelling on the road to Damascus, he was struck down amidst a blinding light from heaven. According to the account in Acts of the Apostles (9:1-22, 22:3-16; 26:12-18), a voice asked, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Following the instructions he was given, Saul headed into Damascus and began proclaiming Jesus. Threatened with death for his actions, Paul escaped the city by being lowered in a basket over the city wall.

Paul's zeal for the risen Jesus led him to become a passionate follower and later a teacher of the nations. The letters, or epistles of Paul offer us a window into the early Church.

(Living with Christ, January 2017)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Between January 18th and 25th, we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year, the theme is reconciliation, under the title "The Love of Christ Compels Us," taken from 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.

(Living with Christ, January 2017)

PAPAL WISDOM: On Christian Unity

"We proceed along the road leading to the conversion of hearts guided by love which is directed to God and, at the same time, to all our brothers and sisters, including those not in full communion with us. Love gives rise to the desire for unity, even in those who have never been aware of the need for it. Love builds communion between individuals and between Communities. If we love one another, we strive to deepen our communion and make it perfect. *Love is given to God* as the perfect source of communion—the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit—that we may draw from that source the strength to build communion between individuals and Communities, or to re-establish it between Christians still divided. Love is the great undercurrent which gives life and adds vigour to the movement towards unity." - *Saint John Paul II*