

# First and Last: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn  
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First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9 | Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18  
Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27 | Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16



The house of Israel is the vine of God – who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness (see Isaiah 5:7; 27:2-5).

Israel failed to yield good fruits and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors (see Psalm 80:9-20). But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth (see Amos 9:15; Hosea 14:5-10).

This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in today's Gospel. The landowner is God. The

vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise (see Ephesians 2:11-13). In the Lord's great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations.

This provokes grumbling in today's parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable (see Luke 15:29-30)? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in today's First Reading. And today's readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy.

Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late – after having spent most of their days idling in sin.

But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in today's Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard.

Our task is to continue laboring in His vineyard. As Paul says in today's Epistle, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Desiderio Manzo Manzanal Sr. – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family  Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Sept. 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Sept. 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saints John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions</b> Alice Aloysius – RIP – by Julia and family
<b>Wednesday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Vincent de Paul</b> Deceased Members of the Daw family – RIP – by Hana Daw
<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions</b> Thanksgiving by Theresa
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael</b> Rita and Pietro Mosca – RIP – by the Ladies' Auxiliary
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sept. 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> For All Souls in Purgatory – by Kathy Donatien
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Oct. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Maria Aninha Pereira – RIP – by the Be My Disciples Catechists  Florence Lewis – RIP – by Janet Prasad

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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:**  
September 17, 2017 - **\$2,677.35**  
**Thank you for your generosity.**

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## OUR LADY OF LOURDES OUTDOOR SANCTUARY



The season ends Sunday, October 1. The closing Masses are Saturday, September 30 at 4:30 pm and Sunday, October 1 at 8:30 am (in English), 9:30 & 11 am and 16h30.

On October 1, the last procession with the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour of Adoration (animated in English) will take place at 12:30 pm. Enjoy a beautiful spirit-filled day at Our Lady's outdoor Sanctuary, situated on Autoroute 40 West, Exit 12 in Rigaud. Turn left and follow the signs to rue de Lourdes. For more information, contact Peter and Linda Krushelnyski at 450-451-0043, or by Email: [reservation@lourdesrigaud.ca](mailto:reservation@lourdesrigaud.ca) (*The Grapevine, September 14, 2017*)

## DONATIONS FOR LATEST DISASTERS



The Archdiocese of Houston's Catholic Charities website has reached out for those who have experienced the ravages of hurricane Harvey. There is an online donation feature plus a snail mail address for cheques and a phone number.

<https://catholiccharities.org/donate-now-and-help-our-neighbors-recover-from-disaster/> (*The Grapevine, September 14, 2017*)

## SAINT JOHN DE BREBEUF, SAINT ISAAC JOGUES AND COMPANIONS: September 26



This day honours the eight martyrs of North America – six Jesuit priests and two lay assistants – who died between 1642 and 1649. All came from Europe in response to a call for "missionaries to the Indians," and all showed great courage. The first group, who died in the United States, included Isaac Jogues and the laymen Rene Goupil and Jean de la Lande. The second group, who died in Canada, included Jean de Brebeuf, Antoine Daniel, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, and Noel Chabanel.

These men were aware of the dangers involved and of the fate of captives. Some of them were captured and escaped, but returned, persisting in their efforts to preach the Gospel to the aboriginal peoples.

Accounts of the martyrdom of Brebeuf and Lalemant survive today in the Jesuit Relations. At Auriesville, NY and at Midland, ON, the shrines erected to the memory of the martyrs attract thousands of pilgrims annually. (*Living with Christ, September 2017*)