

# Calling the Fathers: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn  
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First Reading: Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10 | Psalm 131:1-3  
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13 | Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12



Though they were Moses' successors, the Pharisees and scribes exalted themselves, made their mastery of the law a badge of social privilege. Worse, they had lorded the law over the people (see Matthew 20:25). Like the priests Malachi condemns in today's First Reading, they caused many to falter and be closed off from God.

In a word, Israel's leaders failed to be good spiritual fathers of God's people. Moses was a humble father-figure, preaching the law but also practicing it – interceding and begging God's mercy and forgiveness of the people's sins (see Exodus 32:9-14; Psalm 90).

And Jesus reminds us today that all fatherhood – in the family or in the people of God – comes from the our Father in heaven (see Ephesians 3:15).

He doesn't mean we're to literally call no man "father." He himself referred to Israel's founding fathers (see John 7:42); the apostles taught about natural fatherhood (see Hebrews 12:7-11), and described themselves as spiritual fathers (see 1 Corinthians 4:14-16)

The fatherhood of the apostles and their successors, the Church's priests and bishops, is a spiritual paternity given to raise us as God's children. Our fathers give us new life in baptism, and feed us the spiritual milk of the gospel and the Eucharist (see 1 Peter 2:2-3). That's why Paul, in today's Epistle, can also compare himself to a nursing mother.

God's fatherhood likewise transcends all human notions of fatherhood and motherhood. Perhaps that's why the Psalm chosen for today includes one of the rare biblical images of God's maternal care (see Isaiah 66:13).

His only Son has shown us the Father (see John 14:9) coming to gather His children as a hen gathers her young (see Matthew 23:37). We're all brothers and sisters, our Lord tells us today. And all of us – even our spiritual fathers – are to trust in Him, humbly, like children on our mothers' laps.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**November 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Nov. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Charles Borromeo</b> Jerry Chirola – RIP – by the family
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Nov. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Jacinto and Maria Jose Tomaz –RIP – by Maria
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Nov. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Maria Louisa Amirthanathan – RIP – by Connie and Jim  Jeffrey Saldaña – RIP – by Anna Jaronel
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Nov. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Nov. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Weekday</b> Fructoso and Zenona Lanzaderas – RIP – by Tommy and Emma
<b>Wednesday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Nov. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Weekday</b> Gloria Vella – RIP – by the Sia family
<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Nov. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</b> For Souls in Purgatory – by Phil
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Nov. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Leo the Great</b> Santo and Agusta del Pino – RIP – by the family
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Nov. 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Dominic D'Souza – RIP – by the family
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Nov. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Austin Moran - RIP – by the family  Jeon Matthew Ching – RIP – by the family

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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:**  
October 29, 2017 - **\$2,647.75**  
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**YOU LIFT ME UP**  
Accessibility Project  
*PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA*

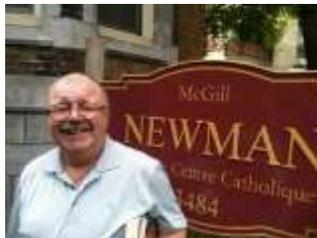
Inspired by the friends of the paralyzed man,  
who were able to overcome every obstacle  
and provide him with access to Jesus,  
we also desire to provide a way to Jesus,  
for those with limited mobility in our community.

With confidence in your unfailing help,  
we entrust to your care this project,  
that it may be successfully completed,  
according to the will of our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

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**THE 2017 NEWMAN LECTURE**



The Annual Newman Lecture will be held on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Newman Center, 3484 Peel Street, Montreal. The topic is "The Irony of Modern Catholic History." The guest speaker, **George Weigel**, will give a presentation on how the Catholic Church's confrontation with modernity resulted in the Church's rediscovery of its evangelical and missionary nature. Book signing and reception will follow. **RSVP is required – seating is limited. No Charge.** Contact Linda Diez at 514-398-4106 or at [newmancentre@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:newmancentre@mail.mcgill.ca)

**48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MOTHERS' GUILD WINE AND CHEESE FUNDRAISER**



The Loyola High School Mothers' Guild proudly presents its 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and Cheese Fundraiser on November 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, from 2-5 pm, 2477 West Broadway Entrance. Please join us for games, silent auction, our famous Ballon Pop, wonderful food, beverages and much more. Tickets are available at [www.loyola.ca](http://www.loyola.ca). Adults only, \$25 admission. All proceeds benefit the Loyola High School Bursary Fund.

**PUBLIC LECTURE BY DR. REGINALD W. BIBBY**



Sponsored by the ESCC and the OEPS, noted sociologist of religion Reginald Bibby will deliver a public lecture entitled, *Being Pro-Religious, Low Religious, and No Religious in Montreal: A Mirror of Canada & the World*. This event will take place on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. A wine & cheese reception will follow the lecture. There will also be an opportunity to purchase signed copies of Dr. Bibby's books, including *Canada's Catholics*. Join us on the 30<sup>th</sup> at Loyola High School, 2477 West Broadway, Montreal.

Please R.S.V.P. by November 23<sup>rd</sup> at [escs@bellnet.ca](mailto:escs@bellnet.ca) or 514-937-2301, ext. 252. More information on this event can be found on the ESCC website: [www.catholiccouncil.ca](http://www.catholiccouncil.ca)