

Straighten the Path: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 | Psalm 85:9-14
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 | Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



Our God is coming. The time of exile – the long separation of humankind from God due to sin – is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God – the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land (see Exodus 23:20). And

He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see Malachi 3:1, 23-24).

John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

He has done all this, not for humanity in the abstract, but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle.

Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives, so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 9th – December 17th, 2017

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 9th	Sunday Vigil Ricardo Timbol and Luisa Garcia – RIP – by the Garcia-Timbol family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 10th	Second Sunday of Advent Natividad Pasia – RIP – by the Kramer family Damiano Durinzi – RIP- by his sister
Monday	Dec. 11th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe Ernesto Tirona – RIP – by Emil Tirona
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 13th	Saint Lucy Florence Gadwah – RIP – by Janet Prasad
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 14th	Saint John of the Cross Roberto Bocobo and Patrocinio Mendoza – RIP – by the Pineda family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 15th	Weekday Deceased Members of the Castro - Eleccion family – RIP- by the family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 16th	Sunday Vigil Gerald Ickleman and Kathleen Welch – RIP – by their friends
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 17th	Third Sunday of Advent Rita and Pietro Mosca – RIP – by the family Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family

*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 3, 2017 - **\$2,605.95**
First Saturday - **\$106.00**
Thank you for your generosity.

HOLY HOUR



There will be silent adoration on a regular basis every Tuesday evening, following the 7pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm). Also, Adoration every Friday throughout the year, following the 9:00 am mass. Come and spend some time with the Lord!

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

December 23 rd (Sunday Mass)	- 4:30pm
December 24 th (Sunday Mass)	- 9:00am and 11:00am
December 24 th (Christmas Mass)	- 8:00pm and 10:00pm
December 25 th (Christmas Mass)	- 11:00am
December 26 th (Weekday Mass)	- 7:00pm
December 27 th (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 28 ^h (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 29 th (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 30 th (Sunday Mass)	- 4:30pm
December 31 st (Sunday Mass)	- 9:00am and 11:00am
December 31 st (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 4:30pm
January 1 st , 2018 (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 11:00am

Note: There will be no late Sunday mass on December 24th and 31st.

ADVENT PRAYER

God of light and hope,
look upon us in love,
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus
that we may love you and serve you in all we do.
Protect us from the attacks of Satan,
and keep us watchful in prayer
as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who is the light of the world,
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – The pageant will take place on Saturday, December 16th, immediately after the 4:30 p.m. Mass. All parishioners are invited to this evening of song and joy in anticipation of the birth of Our Lord, as a baby - Jesus. We ask that everyone who attends Mass on that evening please bring a food item or a toy for OASIS. If the toy is wrapped, please specify on the label if it is for a boy or girl and the age of the child. This will ensure that the recipient will be able to enjoy their new toy.

CHRISTMAS TREE Ornaments – Thank you to all the parishioners who bought Christmas tree ornaments last Sunday. During Advent we will continue to sell the “tree ornaments” for \$2.00 each. There will be a basket at the front and back of the church to put in your payment. Please take your ornament home with you and hang it up on your own tree.

ENVELOPES FOR 2017 SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Envelopes for 2018 Sunday offerings are at the front of the Church. **PLEASE TAKE ONLY THE BOX WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON IT.** If you have never used the envelopes and wish to start, please ask for a new box at the Rectory or call (514) 747-4226 during office hours (9 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.) to register. **We request all users to please put your name and address on the first few envelopes for the New Year to ensure proper recording.** Thank you.