

One Who is Coming: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 | Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't.

He is not Elijah returned from the heavens (see 2 Kings 2:11), although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire (see Mark 1:6; 2 Kings 1:8) and preaches repentance and judgment (see 1 Kings 18:21; 2 Chronicles 21:12-15).

Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfill his mission (see Luke 1:17; Malachi 3:23-24).

Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word (see Deuteronomy 18:15-19; John 6:14). Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since the womb (see Luke 1:15, 44).

John prepares the way for the Lord (see Isaiah 40:3). His baptism is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance.

John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains (see John 1:32), the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today's First Reading (see Luke 4:16-21). Jesus' bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit (see Zechariah 13:1-3; Ezekiel 36:24-27; Mark 1:8; Titus 3:5).

John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today's Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven (see John 6:33, 49-51).

And as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body – that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 16th – December 24th, 2017

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
Monday	Dec. 18th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 19th	Weekday Gary Des Ormeaux – RIP – by Betty
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 20th	Weekday Andre Archambault – RIP – by Denise and Gisele
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 21st	Saint Peter Canisius Louis Ottoni – RIP – by the family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 22nd	Weekday Jean-Paul Caron – RIP – by the Massy family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 23rd	Sunday Vigil Felix O. Manzanal – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Dec. 24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent Maria E.S. Ponte, Maria Melo and Jose Ponte – RIP – by Conceicao and Jeremias Pacheco Chiara Durinzi – RIP – by the Alesi family Laverne Moran – RIP – by the family Bill Yvorchuk – RIP – by the family

Called Home To The Father

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Ernest Morelli**. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Collection:

December 10, 2017 - **\$2,827.65**

Thank you for your generosity.

ENVELOPES FOR 2018 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.

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.

LATE SUNDAY MASS – TIME CHANGE

Please note that **starting JANUARY 7TH, 2018, the Late Sunday Mass will be held at 7:00 pm.** The last Late Sunday Mass at 8:00 will be December 17th, 2017.

NEWLY ELECTED WARDENS

Congratulations and welcome **JP Venturi, Betty Machny, Maria Carneiro** and **Gina English** (re-elected), our newly elected wardens. At the same time, we would like to extend our deep gratitude to **TJ Sorono, Allan Distor** and **Maria E.S. Ponte (RIP)**, for their valuable services to the parish as former wardens.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



If you would like to donate money to buy Christmas flowers to beautify our Church, you can place the money in an envelope (marked Christmas flowers) and put it in the collection basket with your name and envelope number (for your income tax receipt at year end). Thank you for your generosity.

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." -St.Alphonsus Ligouri

THANK YOU

On behalf of the parish staff, I want to thank **Leah Leekam** for the many years she has volunteered her services in and around the sacristy, helping to serve the community. It is through people like Leah, and many others who help with the various tasks and needs of the church that make the parish run smoothly. Thank you!
