

Tree of Righteousness: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24 | Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 | Gospel: Mark 4:26-34



In the cryptic message of the prophet Ezekiel, long centuries before the Lord's coming, God gave His people reason to hope. Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the People of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as He solemnly promises.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams. And so we express our gratitude in the Psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good, and better still to give thanks with praise. The Psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the Cross as the measure of righteousness.

The Cross is a sign of contradiction to those who would rather "flourish" in worldly terms. As St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians, we need courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. He reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifests itself in works: "so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

God Himself will empower the works He expects from us, though we freely choose to correspond to His grace. In the prophetic oracles, He scattered the seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had seen. He gave this doctrine to His disciples in terms they were able to understand, and He provided a full explanation. In the sacraments He provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as children of God.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
June 16th – June 24th, 2018

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	June 16th	Sunday Vigil Louis Ottoni – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	June 17th	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Rita and Pietro Mosca – RIP – by the family Sylvio Durinzi – RIP – by the family
Monday	June 18th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	June 19th	Saint Romuald Spencer Dial – RIP – by Carole Lynch
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	June 20th	Weekday Pedrito Manzanal – RIP –by Ofelia Manzanal and Jerry Roy
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	June 21st	Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Noeline Knowles – RIP – by the Ladies' Auxiliary
Friday 9:00 a.m.	June 22nd	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More Alban de Souza – RIP – by the family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	June 23rd	Sunday Vigil Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	June 24th	Nativity of Saint John the Baptist Dorothy Alexander – RIP – by the Alexander family Adelwisa C. Estrabillo – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy

**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:
June 10, 2018 - **\$1,240.10**
You Lift Me Up - **\$380.00**
(bringing our total to **\$116,204.00** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)
Thank you for your generosity.

THE FOOD BANK “OASIS”

Please remember to bring non-perishable food and leave them in the bins at the doors of the church...Thank you.



NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST



The birth of John the Baptist was one of the earliest feasts to be named to a particular day on the Church calendar. June 24 was chosen as it is six months before the birth of Christ. With its proximity to the summer solstice, it signifies the warning of the light, while the birth of Jesus near the winter solstice marks the coming of the light. When John was born, his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, called him John in accordance with an angel's instruction. In disbelief that they would have a son, Zechariah asked for a sign and was made mute, but with the giving of the name, his speech was restored. Luke records that he responded with the Benedictus, the great hymn of love and thanksgiving still recited in the liturgy of the hours.

- *Living with Christ, June 2018*

YOUTH EVENT: MONTREAL YOUTH CONFERENCE



This year, over 20,000 youth all over the world have had a Jesus Experience and we want you to have one as well. Join us for the "**2018 Montreal Youth Conference: I DECLARE**" organized by the Couples for Christ (CFC) – Youth which will be held on **June 23rd, Saturday, from 8A.M. until 8P.M., at Loyola High School** (7272 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, QC H4B 1R2).

Come and meet new friends, discover more of yourself and encounter the unending **LOVE OF GOD** in a fresh and deeply personal way. **REGISTER NOW** at www.bit.ly/iDeclareMTL. Registration fee: \$30.00. All youth, 13 to 24 years old, are welcome. For more information, please contact Allan and Melinda Distor at 514-213-4868.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



The **REGISTRATION Forms** for September are ready. **ALL children** of the Parish **must be registered in this faith transmission and education program.** The children who are currently in the Be My Disciples program have taken the new registration form home. Please look for it in their book or backpack. All other parishioners, who have children between the ages of Kindergarten and Junior High, please enquire at the office or call Connie Kuhr for information – 514-747-9347. The **DEADLINE is June 24, 2018.** Registrations after that date will be charged a late fee of \$25.00 per person.

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