

To Belong to Christ: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-sixth Sunday Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Numbers 11:25–29 | Psalm 19:8,10,12–14
Second Reading: James 5:1–6 | Gospel: Mark 9:38–48



Today's Gospel begins with a scene that recalls a similar moment in the history of Israel, the episode recalled in today's First Reading. The seventy elders who receive God's Spirit through Moses prefigure the ministry of the apostles.

Like Joshua in the First Reading, John makes the mistake of presuming that only a select few are inspired and entrusted to carry out God's plans. The Spirit blows where it wills (see John 3:8), and God desires to bestow His Spirit on all the people of God, in every nation under heaven (see Acts 2:5, 38).

God can and will work mighty deeds through the most unexpected and unlikely people. All of us are called to perform even our most humble tasks, such as giving a cup of water, for the sake of His name and the cause of His kingdom.

John believes he is protecting the purity of the Lord's name. But, really, he's only guarding his own privilege and status. It's telling that the Apostles want to shut down the ministry of an exorcist. Authority to drive out demons and unclean spirits was one of the specific powers entrusted to the Twelve (see Mark 3:14–15; 6:7, 13).

Cleanse me from my unknown faults, we pray in today's Psalm. Often, like Joshua and John, perhaps without noticing it, we cloak our failings and fears under the guise of our desire to defend Christ or the Church.

But as Jesus says today, instead of worrying about who is a real Christian and who is not, we should make sure that we ourselves are leading lives worthy of our calling as disciples (see Ephesians 1:4).

Does the advice we give, or the example of our actions, give scandal—causing others to doubt or lose faith? Do we do what we do with mixed motives instead of seeking only the Father's will? Are we living, as this Sunday's Epistle warns, for our own luxury and pleasure, and neglecting our neighbors?

We need to keep meditating on His Law, as we sing in today's Psalm. We need to pray for the grace to detect our failings and to overcome them.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
September 29th – October 7th, 2018

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sept. 29th	Sunday Vigil John Simonka – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sept. 30th	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mary Josephine – RIP – by Mary Rosaria Benedict <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday	Oct. 1st	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Oct. 2nd	Holy Guardian Angels Jerry Roy – Birthday Blessings – by Ofelia Roy
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Oct. 3rd	Weekday Wayne Stanbra – RIP – by Pauline
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Oct. 4th	Saint Francis of Assissi Laddy Boisvert – RIP – by sister Pauline
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Oct. 5th	Weekday For Souls in Purgatory – by Phil
Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Oct. 6th	Saint Bruno Abilio Carvajal – RIP – by Mercedes and family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Oct. 6th	Sunday Vigil Thanksgiving and Blessings – by Mr. & Mrs. Reseirmin Sales
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Oct. 7th	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Kathleen Tait-Biro – RIP – by Linda Piper In Thanksgiving to Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael – by Mercedes and 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:
September 23, 2018 - **\$3,089.19**
You Lift Me Up - **\$370.00**
(bringing our total to **\$125,225.00** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)
Thank you for your generosity.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

CHRISTMAS BOXES - As part of our Junior High youth group activities to increase our children's Christian awareness, we are participating again in Operation Christmas Child in conjunction with Samaritan's Purse. This is a project where, every Christmas, millions of shoeboxes filled with gifts are hand delivered to millions of needy children around the world. In addition to bringing joy to these children, these will introduce them to God's love for them through His gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Our youth will be filling the shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene products (no liquids or toothpaste), and other small gifts such as biblical books, socks, t-shirts, etc. Basically anything that could be useful for a needy child and that will fit in a shoebox, small backpack, duffle bag etc., but nothing battery powered. No guns, knives or anything portraying violence.

Please check the pamphlets available for specific information. Choose if the gift is for a **boy** or a **girl** and the **age group**. Please donate \$10.00 per box for shipping costs.

All parishioners are invited to join this parish activity again this year. Each family can fill up as many boxes as they would like to. There is no limit. You can also use ANY regular shoe box, backpack, duffle bag, etc. **DEADLINE** for returning the filled boxes is **Sunday, November 11th. Thank you** to ALL parishioners for your great generosity. For information please contact Frank - 514-333-0791; Connie - 514-747-9347, or the office – 514-747-4226.

PARISH VITALITY CONFERENCE: November 16 and 17, 2018

This November will mark the third Parish Vitality Conference here in Montreal, organized by the Office for English Pastoral Services. In this series, "Leading the Way Together", we invite pastors, lay people, parish leaders and parishioners to consider practical ideas, and, how we can all work together and inspire each other – embracing our mission – which is to make disciples!

Our guest this year is Fr. James Mallon, founder of the JPPII Media Institute and well-known author and speaker on the topics of parish renewal, leadership support and the New Evangelization.

The venue is Loyola High School. The English Speaking Catholic Council will also be hosting its Catholic Rally on Friday evening, Nov. 16. Stay tuned for more details!

Visit <http://www.frjamesmallon.com/> and <http://www.parishvitality.com/>

MONTREAL DIRECTED RETREATS

Enjoy a quiet weekend in peaceful surroundings. Silent, directed weekend retreat at the Cistercian Abbey in Rougemont. Begins Friday evening, **October 12** and ends Sunday afternoon. Call 514-626-9462 or 514-633-1172, or visit www.montrealretreats.org.

COME TO KNOW JESUS MORE

You are invited to join us in a Christian Life Program (CLP) starting **September 22nd, 2018, 7pm, every Saturday, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall.** It is free and will be conducted by the Couples for Christ. The topics include among others: Talk 1 – God's Love; Talk 2- Who is Jesus Christ; and Talk 3 – What it Means to be a Christian. Contact: Emil - (514) 617-4021.

