

What Do We Do? Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–18 | Psalm: Isaiah 12:2–6
Second Reading: Philippians 4:4–7 | Gospel: Luke 3:10–18



The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the Messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The Messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see Luke 3:3; 5:32; 24:47).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a two-fold "turning"—away from sin (see Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30) and toward God (see Sirach 17:20–21; Hosea 6:1).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life-change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see Luke 3:8). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, ask from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring, not from our fear of coming wrath (see Luke 3:7–9), but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice!...The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare Luke 1:28–31). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Savior."

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 15th – 23rd, 2018

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 15th	Sunday Vigil Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 16th	Third Sunday of Advent Rita and Pietro Mosca – RIP – by the family Rudek Hosek – RIP – by the family
Monday	Dec. 17th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 18th	Weekday For Souls in Purgatory – by Phil
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 19th	Weekday For Souls in Purgatory – by Maryline
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 20th	Weekday Carol Balzamo – RIP – by Joan
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 21st	Saint Peter Canisius Nelita Labergue – RIP –by Juvy Labergue & family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 22nd	Sunday Vigil Albert E. Piper – RIP – by Linda Piper
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 23rd	Fourth Sunday of Advent Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family Felix O. Manzanal – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy

Called Home To The Father

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

Collection:

December 9, 2018 - **\$3,477.05**

You Lift Me Up - **\$150.00**

(bringing our total to **\$130,840.00** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)

Thank you for your generosity.

ENVELOPES FOR 2019 SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Envelopes for 2019 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.

ADVENT PRAYER

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

December 23 rd (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)	- 9:00am
December 27 th (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 28 ^h (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 29 th (Sunday Mass)	- 4:30pm
December 30 th (Sunday Mass)	- 9:00am and 11:00am
December 31 st (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 4:30pm
January 1 st , 2019 (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 11:00am

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

Confession – Saturday, December 22nd, ALL the children who already received First Communion are invited to take part in this healing sacrament, in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus. All parents are very welcome too.

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 address (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

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.