

Heads Up: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 | Psalm 25:4-5,8-10,14
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 | Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see 2 Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 33:17; Psalm 89:4-5; 27-38).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in Your truth and teach Me. For You are God my Savior and for You I will wait all day."

We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see Isaiah 13:11,13; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:10); roaring seas (see Isaiah 5:30; 17:12); distress among the nations (see Isaiah 8:22/14:25) and terrified people (see Isaiah 13:6-11).

He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God (see Daniel 7:13-14).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end-times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near" (see Luke 21:31).

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 1st – 9th, 2018

Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 1st	Weekday Thanksgiving by Marie Simmons
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 1st	Sunday Vigil Franc Kebe - RIP – by Amalia Marzi and the Kebe family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 2nd	First Sunday of Advent Florence Gadwah – RIP – by Janet <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday	Dec. 3rd	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 4th	Saint John Damascene Thanksgiving by Ruth Gaudreau
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 5th	Weekday Deceased and Living Members of the Rodrigues family – by Leo and Lavinia
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 6th	Saint Nicholas Stanley L. Tait – RIP – by Linda Piper
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 7th	Saint Ambrose Ambrosio Millare – RIP – by the family
Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 8th	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Pro Populo</i>
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 8th	Sunday Vigil Damiano Durinzi – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 9th	Second Sunday of Advent Maria Palec – RIP – by the family Ricardo Timbol and Luisa Garcia – RIP – by the Timbol and Garcia families

*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:
November 25, 2018 - **\$2,137.00**
You Lift Me Up - **\$250.00**
(bringing our total to **\$130,590.00** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)
Thank you for your generosity.

SUNDAY MISSALS

The 2018-2019 Sunday Missals are available starting November 18th, after every Mass. For those who would like to have a copy of their own, the cost is \$6.00 each. There is a collection plate beside the Missals for the people to put their money in.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8th is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be a mass on **Saturday, December 8th at 10am** to celebrate this great Marian solemnity.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF PARISHIONERS: Warden Elections

There will be Warden Elections on **Sunday, December 16th, 12-1pm at the Church hall**. Nominations of new wardens must be made at the meeting at which time the election will take place.

A parish warden must live within the parish boundaries. He or she is a parishioner elected to be a director, or administrator, of the church corporation whose object is to acquire, possess, hold and administer property for the practice of the Roman Catholic religion. Therefore the warden is not a pastoral agent directing the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish. Professional or business experience and ability to work in a team are also important. A warden should be a Catholic in good standing with the Church and ideally have a track record of active involvement in the parish.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

Operation Christmas Child - Thank you for filling up the “shoe boxes”! This year, our parish filled and sent out 106 boxes and backpacks! Thanks to your great generosity and kindness, 106 children will be so happy to receive these gifts from caring strangers from across the world, “in the Name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on this very SPECIAL Christmas Day where in Bethlehem Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour is born. He will bring, PEACE, HOPE, FAITH AND LOVE during this very special time that is Christmas.” Thanks to everyone for all the ways that you have supported this wonderful project.

Christmas Tree Ornaments – On **Sunday, December 2**, the first Sunday of Advent, young people will be at the doors of the church selling the “Christmas tree ornaments” to benefit CHALICE and their many good works in various developing countries. During Advent we will continue to sell the “tree ornaments” for \$2.00 each. You may take your ornament home with you and hang it up on your own tree.

Christmas Pageant – **Saturday, December 15th**. This event, put on by Be My Disciples and including all children, will remind us of the **real** meaning of Christmas. The Pageant will be held after the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass. All parishioners are invited to attend. Please bring non-perishable food items, or appropriately-marked gifts (gender and age) for OASIS.

We will be happy to welcome you! Please mark the date on your calendars

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.