

# The Road Home: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn  
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First Reading: Baruch 5:1–9 | Psalm 126:1–6  
Second Reading: Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11 | Gospel: Luke 3:1–6



Today's Psalm paints a dream-like scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.

It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the One who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration, conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1–4, 11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He's preparing the way, not only for a new redemption of Israel, but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also Acts 28:28).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**December 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> , 2018**

<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Damiano Durinzi – RIP – by the family
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Maria Palec – RIP – by the family  Ricardo Timbol and Luisa Garcia – RIP – by the Timbol and Garcia families
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Dec. 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Damasus I</b> Michel Campeau – RIP – by Linda Piper
<b>Wednesday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</b> Ada Boisvert – RIP – by Pauline
<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Lucy</b> Patricia Lennon-Mines – RIP – by Simon and Patricia Leblanc
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint John of the Cross</b> Dominga Castro – RIP – by the family
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Rita and Pietro Mosca – RIP – by the family  Rudek Hosek – RIP – by the family

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*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.*

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**Collection:**  
December 2, 2018 - **\$3,990.20**  
First Saturday - **\$186.00**  
You Lift Me Up - **\$100.00**  
(bringing our total to **\$130,690.00** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)  
**Thank you for your generosity.**

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### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

December 23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sunday Mass)	- 9:00am and 11:00am
December 24 <sup>th</sup> (Christmas Mass)	- 8:00pm and 10:00pm
December 25 <sup>th</sup> (Christmas Mass)	- 11:00am
December 26 <sup>th</sup> (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 27 <sup>th</sup> (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 28 <sup>h</sup> (Weekday Mass)	- 9:00am
December 29 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday Mass)	- 4:30pm
December 30 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday Mass)	- 9:00am and 11:00am
December 31 <sup>st</sup> (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 4:30pm
January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019 (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 11:00am

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### BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

**Christmas Pageant – Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

**Christmas Tree Ornaments –** Thank you to all the parishioners who bought Christmas tree ornaments last Sunday. During Advent we will continue to sell the “tree ornaments” for \$2.00 each. There will be a basket at the front and back of the church to put in your payment. You may take your ornament home with you and hang it up on your own tree.

**Confession – Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>,** **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.

### 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.

### 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