

Forty Days: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday of Lent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4–10 | Psalm 91:1–2, 10–15
Second Reading: Romans 10:8–13 | Gospel: Luke 4:1–13



In today's epic Gospel scene, Jesus relives in His flesh the history of Israel.

We've already seen that, like Israel, Jesus has passed through water and been called God's beloved Son (see Luke 3:22; Exodus 4:22). Now, as Israel was tested for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus is led into the desert to be tested for forty days and nights (see Exodus 15:25).

He faces the temptations put to Israel: Hungry, He's tempted to grumble against God for food (see Exodus 16:1–13). As Israel quarreled at Massah, He's tempted to doubt God's care (see Exodus 17:1–6). When the Devil asks for His homage, He's tempted to do what Israel did in creating the golden calf (see Exodus 32).

Jesus fights the Devil with the Word of God, three times quoting from Moses' lecture about the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its wilderness wanderings (see Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:12–15).

Why do we read this story on the first Sunday of Lent? Because like the biblical sign of forty (see Genesis 7:12; Exodus 24:18; 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8; Jonah 3:4), the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification.

Lent is to teach us what we hear over and over in today's readings. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm. Paul promises the same thing in today's Epistle (quoting Deuteronomy 30:14; Isaiah 28:16; Joel 2:32).

This was Israel's experience, as Moses reminds his people in today's First Reading: "We cried to the LORD . . . and He heard." But each of us is tempted, as Israel was, to forget the great deeds He works in our lives, to neglect our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters.

Like the litany of remembrance Moses prescribes for Israel, we should see in the Mass a memorial of our salvation, and "bow down in His presence," offering ourselves in thanksgiving for all He has given us.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
March 9th – 17th, 2019

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Mar. 9th	Sunday Vigil Anthony, Olive & Maria – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Mar. 10th	First Sunday of Lent Jessie Piper – RIP – by Linda Piper Raymond Jack – For Protection and Spiritual Guidance
Monday	Mar. 11th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Mar. 12th	Weekday Teresita Manzo Manzanal – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Mar. 13th	Weekday Emily Bentley – RIP – by Joan
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Mar. 14th	Weekday Theresa O'Neill – RIP – by Joan
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Mar. 15th	Weekday Theresa O'Neill – RIP – by Ron and Carolyn
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Mar. 16th	Sunday Vigil Giovanni and Palmarosa Salvatore – RIP by Antonietta
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Mar. 17th	Second Sunday of Lent Helen Mikus – RIP – by husband and family <i>Pro Populo</i>

**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:
March 3, 2019 - **\$2,816.30**
First Saturday - **\$ 151.35**
You Lift Me Up - **\$200.00**
(bringing our total to **\$134,425.00** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)
Thank you for your generosity.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

To our dear parishioners who used the envelope system for the weekly donation to the Parish in 2018, your income tax receipts are ready at the **Sacristy**. Please pick up your receipt either on the weekend after Mass or during the week, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Thank you.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

REMINDERS:

Holy Spirit Day – March 31st (Cathedral for Confirmation of Candidates)
Confirmation – Saturday, June 8th at 4:30 p.m.
First Eucharist – Saturday, June 15th, at 4:30 p.m. Mass

Please pray for our children and their families as they prepare for their sacraments.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life prayer vigil is a focused pro-life campaign with a **vision** to access God's power through prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil to end abortion for the protection of the unborn child. The **mission** of the campaign is to bring together the Body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism, with a purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to culture of life, thus bringing about an end to abortion.

All are welcomed to join us beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 06, 2019, and continuing through to Palm Sunday, April 14, 2018, to pray for the end of abortion. **Daily** we will be at the corner of Berri and St. Catherine Streets (505 Saint-Catherine Street East), 24 hours per day. To learn more and/or to become a prayer volunteer, call: 514 344-2686 or 438 930-8643 or email info@cqv.qc.ca.

BAND OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS MEN'S CONFERENCE

On March 16th join Archbishop Christian Lépine, Al Smith and Marco Mastromonaco for the 4th annual Band of Christian Brothers Men's Conference (1st time in Montreal) at St. Jean Bosco Parish in Montreal. The theme is "Step Up". The day will strengthen and challenge men to become the man God created them to be. Mass, talks, Adoration and Confession will take place.

\$25 admission which includes coffee, snacks and a pasta lunch. All info and to purchase tickets: <https://www.serviamministries.com/events/stepup> , or info@ServiamMinistries.com

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

WAY OF THE CROSS

Everyone is invited to the Way of the Cross **every Friday at 7p.m.** during this Lenten season.