

No Favorites: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
Copyright 2019 www.salvationhistory.com

First Reading: Sirach 35:12–14, 16–18 | Psalm 34:2–3, 17–19, 23
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18 | Gospel: Luke 18:9–14



Jesus draws a blunt picture in today's Gospel.

The Pharisee's prayer is almost a parody of the thanksgiving psalms (see for example Psalms 30, 118). Instead of praising God for His mighty works, the Pharisee congratulates himself for his own deeds, which he presents to God in some detail.

The tax collector stands at a distance, too ashamed even to raise his eyes to God (see Ezra 9:6). He prays with a humble and contrite heart (see Psalm 51:19). He knows that

before God no one is righteous, no one has cause to boast (see Roman 3:10; 4:2).

We see in the Liturgy today one of Scripture's abiding themes—that God “knows no favorites,” as today's First Reading tells us (see 2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34–35; Romans 2:11).

God cannot be bribed (see Deuteronomy 10:17). We cannot curry favor with Him or impress Him—even with our good deeds or our faithful observance of religious duties such as tithing and fasting. If we try to exalt ourselves before the Lord, as the Pharisee does, we will be brought low (see Luke 1:52).

This should be a warning to us—not to take pride in our piety, not to slip into the self-righteousness of thinking that we're better than others, that we're “not like the rest of sinful humanity.”

If we clothe ourselves with humility (see 1 Peter 5:5–6)—recognize that all of us are sinners in need of His mercy—we will be exalted (see Proverbs 29:33).

The prayer of the lowly, the humble, pierces the clouds. Paul testifies to this in today's Epistle, as he thanks the Lord for giving him strength during his imprisonment.

Paul tells us what the Psalmist sings today—that the Lord redeems the lives of His humble servants.

We too must serve Him willingly. And He will hear us in our distress, deliver us from evil, and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
October 26th – November 3rd, 2019

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Oct. 26th	Sunday Vigil Pedrito Manzo Manzanal –RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Oct. 27th	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jose J. Ponte – RIP – by Connie and Jim Kuhr <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday	Oct. 28th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Oct. 29th	Weekday Benjamin Saldana – RIP – by Anna Jaronel
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Oct. 30th	Weekday Thomas Bolohan – RIP – by Joan
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Oct. 31st	Weekday Deceased Members of the Estoya family - RIP
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 1st	ALL SAINTS For All Saints, Souls and Angels – by the Ferraro family
Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Nov. 2nd	COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED Yellow Envelope (Souls)
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Nov. 2nd	Sunday Vigil <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 1:00 a.m.	Nov. 3rd	Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Deceased Members of the De Souza and Pinto families - RIP Deceased Legionaries - RIP

*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:
October 20, 2019 - **\$3,115.15**
You Lift Me Up – **\$17,050.81**
(bringing our total to **\$159,783.56** for our goal of **\$170,000.00**)
Thank you for your generosity.

ALL SOULS DAY

"The Church's tradition has always recommended prayers for the dead. The basis for this prayer of suffrage is found in the communion of the Mystical Body. As the Second Vatican Council stresses: "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in her pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honoured with great respect the memory of the dead" (LG, n. 50). Therefore she encourages cemetery visits, the care of graves and prayers of suffrage as a witness of confident hope, amid the sorrow of being separated from one's loved ones. Death is not the last word on human fate, because man is destined for endless life, which finds its fulfilment in God.

With this belief in man's ultimate destiny, we now turn to Mary, who experienced the drama of Christ's death at the foot of the Cross and then shared in the joy of his Resurrection. May she, the Gate of Heaven, help us more and more to understand the value of praying for our departed loved ones. May she sustain us each day on our earthly pilgrimage and help us never to lose sight of the ultimate goal of life, which is paradise." - *Saint John Paul II (Angelus Nov. 2, 1997)*

PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

Yellow envelopes are available on the pews for anyone who wishes to fill them in remembrance for the souls of their departed family members and friends. These envelopes will be kept in the Sanctuary throughout November, the month of prayers for the dead. Mass will be offered for all souls on Saturday, November 2nd at 10 am.

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 17th.** **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.

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.