

Here is Your God: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Isaiah 35:1–6, 10 | Psalm 146:6–10
Second Reading: James 5:7–10 | Gospel: Matthew 11:2–11



John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing “the works of the Messiah,” foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2).

The liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: “Here is your God.”

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 14th – December 22nd, 2019

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 14th	Sunday Vigil Helen Annett – RIP – by her mom
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 15th	Third Sunday of Advent <i>Pro Populo</i> Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family
Monday	Dec. 16th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 17th	Weekday Yvette Richard – RIP – by Kevin and Linda Piper
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 18th	Weekday For Souls in Purgatory – RIP – by Phil
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 19th	Weekday For Souls in Purgatory – RIP – by Mary-Christinne Hubert
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 20th	Weekday Thanksgiving by the Castro family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 21st	Sunday Vigil <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Advent Albert E. Piper – RIP – by Linda Piper Florence Gadwah – RIP – by the family

**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:
December 8, 2019 - **\$2,533.05**
First Saturday Collection - **\$142.50**
Thank you for your generosity.

ENVELOPES FOR 2020 SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Envelopes for 2020 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.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

December 24th (Christmas Mass)	-8:00pm and 10:00pm
December 25th (Christmas Mass)	-11:00am
December 26 th (Weekday Mass)	-9:00am
December 27 th (Weekday Mass)	-9:00am
December 28 th (Holy Innocents)	-10:00am
(Sunday Vigil)	-4:30pm
December 29th (Sunday Mass)	- 9:00am and 11:00am
December 30 th (Weekday Mass)	-9:00am
December 31st (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 4:30pm
January 1st, 2020 (Mary Mother of God Mass)	- 11:00am

*~Note: masses in **Bold**: Holy Days of obligation*

PARISH CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCH

The parish will be holding a Christmas Potluck lunch on Sunday, December 29th (Feast of the Holy Family) after the 11 am mass at the Church hall.

Simply bring edible left-overs you may have from Christmas... light lunch of sandwiches, salads, pasta, meat & rice, desserts, etc... or just come as you are, there will be enough food to share. With some Christmas carols, maybe a dance or two, this will be a nice occasion to have fun together. For any questions about the lunch gathering, please phone Cecilia at 514-332-7317.

Also, during the potluck, we will have a corner in the Hall set up to receive donated items to help support **Chez Doris**, a local charity offering daytime shelter for all women in difficulty. Suggested items to bring for donation are toiletries, winter stuff, bed linens, towels, gift cards for coffee shops and pharmacies, non-perishable food items. For more details, please contact Betty Machny or visit Chez Doris website at www.chezdoris.org

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to donate money to buy 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.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

CHRISTMAS TREE Ornaments –During Advent we will continue to sell the “tree ornaments” for \$2.00 each. Please buy some ornaments and contribute to the giving of hope to those in great need. During the week, there will be a basket at the entrances to the church. Please take an ornament and leave your payment. You may take your ornament home with you and hang it up on your own tree.

Christmas Pageant – Saturday, December 21st. This event is put on by Be My Disciples and includes all the children in the program. It 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 by Sunday, December 15th (specify gender and age) for OASIS. Please mark the date on your calendars!

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.