

Holy as God: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18 | Psalm 103:1–4, 8, 10, 12–13
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16–23 | Gospel: Matthew 5:38–48



We are called to the holiness of God. That is the extraordinary claim made in both the First Reading and Gospel this Sunday.

Yet how is it possible that we can be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect?

Jesus explains that we must be imitators of God as His beloved children (Ephesians 5:1–2).

As God does, we must love without limit—with a love that does not distinguish between friend and foe, overcoming evil with good (see Romans 12:21).

Jesus Himself, in His Passion and death, gave us the perfect example of the love that we are called to.

He offered no resistance to the evil—even though He could have commanded twelve legions of angels to fight alongside Him. He offered His face to be struck and spit upon. He allowed His garments to be stripped from Him. He marched as His enemies compelled Him to the Place of the Skull. On the cross He prayed for those who persecuted Him (see Matthew 26:53–54, 67; 27:28, 32; Luke 23:34).

In all this He showed Himself to be the perfect Son of God. By His grace, and through our imitation of Him, He promises that we too can become children of our heavenly Father.

God does not deal with us as we deserve, as we sing in this week's Psalm. He loves us with a Father's love. He saves us from ruin. He forgives our transgressions.

He loved us even when we had made ourselves His enemies through our sinfulness. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (see Romans 5:8).

We have been bought with the price of the blood of God's only Son (see 1 Corinthians 6:20). We belong to Christ now, as St. Paul says in this week's Epistle. By our baptism, we have been made temples of His Holy Spirit.

And we have been saved to share in His holiness and perfection. So let us glorify Him by our lives lived in His service, loving as He loves.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
February 22nd – March 1st, 2020

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 22nd	Sunday Vigil Charles Patrick Sampson – RIP – by the Wojciechowski family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Feb. 23rd	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Marypillai – RIP – by Julia and family <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday	Feb. 24th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7 p.m.	Feb. 25th	Weekday Jose J. Ponte – RIP – by Connie
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 26th	Ash Wednesday Ofelia Manzanal Roy – Birthday Thanksgiving Lionel Romea – RIP – by Cecille and family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 27th	Weekday Victor O. Kramer – RIP – by the family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 28th	Weekday Corinne Legare Pasalis – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 29th	Sunday Vigil Olinda and Anthony P. De Silva – RIP – by Anne Marie
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Mar. 1st	First Sunday of Lent A.P. Joseph – RIP – by Roselyn Jacob 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:
February 16, 2020 - **\$2,759.25**
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 2019, 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 26th

Ashes will be distributed to the faithful at two masses on Ash Wednesday, February 26th, at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

LENT

Lent is the 40-day period before Easter, excluding Sundays (the day Jesus arose), from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday before the Lord's Supper. **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday**, the day the faithful have their foreheads signed with ashes in the form of a Cross. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are also **days of fast and abstinence**. **A day of fast:** is one on which Catholics who are 18 to 60 years old may eat a single, normal meal and have two snacks, so long as these snacks do not add up to a second meal. (Those with medical conditions requiring a greater or more regular food intake are exempt from this limited fast.) **A day of abstinence:** one on which Catholics 14 years or older must abstain from meat. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence, because Jesus died for our sins on Friday. (To note, all Fridays of the year are still days of abstinence from meat, although we now have the option on those days of substituting no meat by making another act of penance, charity or religious devotion.)

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

Ash Wednesday – February 26th – Please remember to attend Mass.

Lent Confessions – Saturday, February 29th at 10:00 a.m. For ALL children who have already received their First Holy Communion

March Break – Sunday, March 1st – no classes.

Holy Spirit Day at the Cathedral for Confirmation candidates – Saturday March 21st

Confirmation – Saturday, May 30th, 4:30 pm Mass

First Eucharist – Saturday, June 13th at 4:30 p.m. Mass

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

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

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.