



June 28th, 2026
13th Sunday of
Ordinary Time

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
Fr. Henry Email: frhenrys@gmail.com
Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
Priest on Call: 902-746-8233 (Emergencies and Sacrament of the sick)
Office hours: Monday to Friday
from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Church email : stambrosemail@gmail.com
Bulletin email: stambrosebulletin1@gmail.com
Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Confession/Adoration Wednesday 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS –June 27th – July 5th, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Perly Doucette
Sun. 9am Alfie Doucette
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Michael Howell
Wed. 6:30 pm Robert Edward Saulnier
Thurs. 9 am Intentions Xavier Johnston
Fri. 9 am Pere Robicheau
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Rita Durkee
Sun. 11:15 am Arie & Lorette Vanderdonk

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am June 28 Enos Jacquard
Sun. 10 am July 5 Loring Clairmont

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE GIFTS in the offertory procession at a weekend Mass (if you are a family member of the person the Mass is for) please see the greeters **at least 20 minutes before Mass begins.**

Please note: The weekday Mass will be cancelled in the event of a funeral Mass. The Mass intention scheduled for that day will be offered at a later date.

REFLECTION: Receiving and Expressing Love *Jesus said to his apostles: “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his*

cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” When a scribe approached Jesus and asked Him which of the commandments was the greatest, He replied: ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these”. Today’s Gospel offers a similar teaching: We must love God above all else—even more than father, mother, son, or daughter. By contrasting love for God with love for family, Jesus is not diminishing familial affection; rather, He is revealing that the only way to truly love others is by loving God first. Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches: “God must be loved above all things and before all others out of charity, for He is loved as the source of happiness, whereas our neighbor is loved as one who shares in that happiness along with us” (*Summa Theologiae* II-II, Q.26, A.2). In other words, God must be loved first because He is the ultimate cause and source of beatitude—the only true happiness. Though we are called to love our families and our neighbors, Christian charity dictates that we love them in relation to God—as fellow recipients of divine happiness. One reason this Gospel is challenging is that our natural affections, though good, must be transformed by divine charity. It is natural to love our parents and children—God designed us with these affections. Even animals instinctively care for their offspring. But Jesus calls us to something higher: a love that is perfected by divine charity, transcending mere emotional attachment or duty. His teaching does not negate natural love; rather, it purifies, elevates, and directs it toward the highest good—God Himself. When Jesus speaks of loving “father or mother” or “son or daughter” more than Him, He is addressing the inner conflict we sometimes experience in our emotions. When natural affection is not transformed by spiritual charity, the love we offer another can do more harm than good. Disordered affection replaces the ultimate good—God—with the lesser good of emotional attachment and human consolation. The real danger arises when our loved ones stray from God’s will, and we, out of misguided affection, affirm them in their error, thereby confirming them in a state lacking true beatitude. The foundation of true love is this: God alone is the source of perfect

happiness, for us and for our loved ones. Our belief in God transforms the way we love others. No longer do we merely seek their earthly comfort or emotional well-being; rather, we direct them to the eternal Good—God Himself—who alone fulfills every longing. When we love God first, all our relationships are purified. Instead of loving others with human affection alone, we love them with the very love of God, seeking their ultimate good: eternal life in Him. This purified love does not exclude human affection; rather, it elevates and directs it, ensuring that our love is not merely sentimental but truly transformative through divine charity. Reflect today on those closest to you—those whom God calls you to love with the highest form of love. Are your affections rightly ordered, or do they sometimes compete with the charity God desires to instill in you? If so, turn your heart to God. Seek to love Him above all else. Let Him become the object of your deepest love and desire. When God is first, His love will transform you from within, enabling you to love others not just with natural affection, but with the very love of Christ, leading them to the eternal joy of union with Him. -My Catholic Life

CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP: August 9th - 14th at



Johnston Christian Park, South Range, Digby County. \$225.00 early bird fee by June 30th. After this it will be \$250.00. It’s for youth ages 10 to 14 and you can get a registration form at the Parish office or on the website. **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:** If you are able and would like to make a contribution to help it would be appreciated!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: We will be having an



outdoor mass at 10:00 am on Sunday July 26th at Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park located 1888 Mood Road in Deerfield. Following this mass will be a barbecue which will be cooked by the Knights of Columbus with the food being supplied by the parish. To do this, we will be canceling both the 9 am and 11:15 am masses at Saint Ambrose that morning. For those who would not like to attend at Ellenwood, there is still the 4:00 pm mass at St. Ambrose on Saturday and the 10:00 am mass on Sunday at Our Lady of Lourdes in Melbourne. There will be sign-

up sheets at the entrance of the Church for the next few weeks for those who wish to attend so we know how much food is needed for Barbecuing and if you wish you can bring a salad or sweet to share. This is a community building event meant to help us get to know one another better. Please remember to bring a chair. Fr. Henry

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Urgent meeting: to be



held on July 21st at 7:00 pm to discuss the future of our building. All members encouraged to attend.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: With the words of scripture,



we feed our faith, we lift up our hope, we confirm our confidence. -St. Basil

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be



held July 2nd 2026 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

ANNUAL FOOD BANK REPORT: The annual

collection for 2025/26 fraternal year ending June 30th, for the Yarmouth Food Bank was 1900 lbs. of non-perishable food items and cash donations totaling \$33,493.00. The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all parishioners of St. Ambrose for their kindness and generosity and may God bless you abundantly. Thank you for your support.

FOOD BANK: Next weekend, July 4th and 5th is our



turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated. Members of the Knights of Columbus will be on hand before all the masses to receive the donations.

LEGACY GIVING: As Catholics, we believe that our

assets are gifts from a generous God, and that we are called to be wise stewards of these blessings. Have you ever thought about leaving a legacy gift to Saint Ambrose? This is a way for you to help in continuing the Church's mission long after you are gone. Please remember St. Ambrose Parish in your will.

INCENSE: This is a reminder that incense will be

used at 11:15 Mass this weekend and the last Sunday of each month.