



July 20th, 2025 16th 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 – July 19th – 27th, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Marie Fitzgerald
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15am Richard Robicheau
Tues. 6:30 pm Dwayne Murphy
Wed. 6:30 pm Special Intentions
Thurs. 9 am Theresa & Barry Doucette
Fri. 9 am Special Intentions
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Madeline Nixon
Sun. 10am Parishioners (Mass at Ellenwood Park)

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sat. 6 pm July 19 Pauline Cotteau
Sun. 10 am July 27 Melissa Holly Burke (LeBlanc)

RFLECTION: Serving with Generosity



Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. It's interesting that it was Martha who welcomed Jesus, but it was Mary who sat at His feet listening to Him. As the story goes on, we discover that Martha took her responsibility of hospitality seriously; she was very busy preparing a meal. But it appears that Mary needed a different form of

hospitality from our Lord Himself. As Martha prepared to feed Jesus so as to care for His physical hunger, Mary sought to be fed by our Lord so as to feed her spiritual hunger. And interestingly, it was the generosity of Martha who was diligent in preparing the meal that made it possible for her sister to receive the spiritual food she longed for. When we read this story, we can easily become critical of Martha because she complained to Jesus about her sister. It is easy to see Martha's frustration in her words, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." And though Martha may have been a little impatient, Jesus' response to her was gentle and corrective. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." What was that "better part?" It was Mary's prayerful attentiveness to Jesus. She was hungry for His teaching, and Jesus offered it to her in a very personal and loving way. And though this image of Mary before Jesus is a beautiful image to ponder and to use as a model of our own prayer, there is also something important to be said about Martha's role in making Mary's prayer possible. Because Martha was diligent in taking care of the duties of hospitality, Mary felt the freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. Perhaps the ideal response from Martha would have been to notice that Mary was being spiritually fed by our Lord and to rejoice in that fact, giving her the continued freedom to sit at Jesus' feet. If Martha would have realized this, then she would have continued working in the background so that her sister could continue listening to Jesus. But even though Martha did interrupt this sacred moment for her sister, the fact remains that her initial diligence in taking care of preparing the meal did give Mary some time alone with Jesus. In a similar way, we will all be given various opportunities in life to take care of the daily mundane tasks that are needed within a family or community. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that unless everyone does their equal part, then things are not fair. But being "fair" should not be our focus. True charity, especially within the family, means that, first and foremost, we look for opportunities to better the lives of those around us. For example, spending extra time cleaning a home

so that others can enjoy it more adds much to family life. Or spending hours preparing a nice meal for family or friends may afford everyone the opportunity of time well spent together. These are only a couple of the countless ways that our diligence and generosity toward others is fruitful, especially within family life. Reflect, today, upon these two women and the unique calling they each were given at the time of Jesus' visit to their house. One was called to be fed by our Lord as she sat at His feet. The other was called to work hard so as to make it easier for her sister to receive that spiritual nourishment. Know that both of these callings are important. For that reason, if God calls you to be more like Martha at times, rejoice in that fact and work hard at serving in many ways. If God calls you to be more like Mary at times, then rejoice in those moments and sit prayerfully at the feet of our Lord, being fed by His holy Words. -My Catholic Life

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:



The crown will be given neither to beginners, nor the advanced, but to those who persevere to the end. – St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC?



Are you a non-Catholic interested in the Catholic faith? Are you thinking you might want to become Catholic? Are you a Catholic adult who never celebrated your 1st Communion and/or Confirmation? Then RCIA is for you. RCIA will be starting this fall at St. Ambrose. If you are interested then please contact the office for a form you can fill out to sign up. Come and join us this fall!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC:



Once again, we will be having an outdoor mass at 10:00 am on Sunday July 27th 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

RELICS OF ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE:



Will be visiting here at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral on Thursday July 31st, 2025.

3:00 pm -Exposition of the relic of St. Andre Bessette

3:30 pm -Glorious Mysteries of Rosary

4:00 pm -Holy Mass

4:45 pm -Veneration of the Relic and Blessings with the Oil of St. Joseph

Saint André Bessette, also known as Brother André, was a lay brother of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and is a significant figure in the Catholic Church, particularly among French Canadians. He was canonized a saint in 2010. St. André was known for his devotion to Saint Joseph and was believed to have interceded in many miraculous healings. To learn more about St. André visit: holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/st-andre-bessette

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be



held August 7th, 2025 in Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

PARISH SECRETARY - Paroisse Notre-Dame de l'Assomption

-The parish is looking for a part-time secretary. 9a.m. to 2p.m. Tuesday to Friday. Duties include - typing and printing church bulletins, managing mass schedules and coordinating priest schedules, answering phones, checking emails and relaying messages to the appropriate staff member, printing baptismal and marriage certificates, keeping parish registers up to date, ordering candles, church envelopes, hosts, wine and other necessary supplies, keeping in contact with all committee members and attending monthly Pastoral committee meetings. Proficiency in the French language is required. To apply please send your resume at nda@eastlink.ca or call 902-648-2315.