



August 13th, 2023
19th 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)
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
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
 after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS –August 12th –20th 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

- Sat. 4 pm Sandy and Gene Keddy
- Sun. 9am Parishioners
- Sun. 11:15 am Anniv. Alyre Comeau
- Tues. 6:30 pm Caroline LeBlanc
- Wed. 6:30 pm Linda Lusk
- Thurs: 9 am David Chisholm
- Fri. 9 am Stanley Surette
- Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Basil McGuigan
- Sun. 9 am Mary & Wilfred Bishara
- Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

- Sat. 6 pm August 12 Special Intentions
- Sat. 6 pm August 19 Intentions of Bishop James Wingle

REFLECTION: Overcoming the Impossible After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so,

he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening, he was there alone. Our Gospel today presents us with two different images to ponder. The first one is recorded above, and the second one is the story of Jesus walking on



the water. In the second story, the disciples were rowing against the wind and waves in the early morning before the sun rose. Jesus appeared to them walking on the water, and they were frightened. Jesus confronts the fear they experience and calls Peter to walk on the water as a sign of his faith in Him. Peter begins to walk on water, and then in fear, he begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus Who catches Him and then gently rebukes Peter for his lack of faith. It is helpful to understand the first image in this Gospel passage as the context for the second. In this first image, we see Jesus dismissing the crowds after feeding the five thousand and going up a mountain to pray all alone. Though Jesus was always in perfect union with the Father and, therefore, had no need for prayer, He prayed nonetheless because it was His human expression of the deep union He had with His Father. As He prayed, He also set forth an example to all who would follow Him, teaching them by His example about the importance of private prayer. The primary lesson He taught on this occasion was that prayer is the remote preparation we need so as to overcome all apparent obstacles in life and to confront fear with perfect faith. First, the obvious “obstacle” Jesus overcame through His prayer was symbolized by His walking on the stormy sea. No one walks on water. It’s physically impossible. But that’s the point. When we make our life of personal prayer a priority, God will lead us to accomplish that which appears to us to be impossible. It might not be walking on water literally, but His walking on water after spending the night in prayer is symbolic of every apparent impossibility we face in life. The lesson is that if God wills it, nothing is impossible. We will know that if we make personal prayer our first priority.

A second obstacle that Jesus confronts is fear. Fear is paralyzing and results in us “sinking” when life becomes difficult. Again, personal prayer is the necessary preparation for overcoming fear. What’s interesting is that we have two witnesses of prayer. First is Jesus’ witness. He prayed because it was good and right to pray. The second is Peter. He prayed when he started to sink. He said, “Lord, save me!” This is the prayer of one who failed to have faith and prayed out of a present need rather than out of pure love of God. Too often, Peter exemplifies the prayer life that many Christians

have. We often wait to pray until we need help and are sinking. But what if Peter had also spent the night in prayer simply out of love of God? What if he had just finished praying all night when he was invited to walk on water? Perhaps then he would have easily walked to Jesus and would not have given into fear. Reflect, today, upon making your life of prayer the number-one priority in your life. Maybe you have many responsibilities in life. Nothing is more important than praying—and not only when you feel trapped or feel like you are sinking. Instead, we must all establish an unbreakable habit of prayer to God for the singular reason that it is good and right to do so. The fruit of such a life of prayer is that no matter what obstacle comes our way, we will have the faith we need to follow every command of our Lord, overcoming even that which appears to be impossible.

My prayerful Lord, You spent the night in prayer to Your Father not because You needed help, but because of Your love. Your prayer was an expression of that love and was a natural requirement of it. Please help me to also establish an unbreakable habit of prayer so that my love for You will remain strong and so that I can follow You through every apparent obstacle in life. Jesus, I trust in You.
 -My Catholic Life.

ROSARY GROUP: Starting September 14, come join me in the Jubilee Room after 9 am mass to say the rosary. Intentions for loved ones and conversion of hearts. Come and grow closer to God through the Blessed Virgin Mary. If any questions please call or text Sarah Hubbard at 902 740-2191



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Beyond armies of occupation and the hecatombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves? -St. Maximilian Kolbe

FRIENDS OF MARY: The Friends of Mary are collecting greeting cards for Yarmouth Life Skills. They use the cards to make gift tags. You can help by saving your cards. We will collect them a few

times a year. Look for a notice in the fall for our first collecting date.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: - Saint Ambrose Parish 100 years ago. In March 1923 a 40-hours devotion saw 1,054 Confessions and 1,199 people receiving Communion. Candles burned during this devotion earned \$16.85 and the poor box received \$4.33

COFFEE SOCIALS: are being held after all the masses the weekend of August 19th and 20th in the Jubilee Room. Come join us for a cup.



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!



OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed Monday August 14th and Friday August 18th for staff to attend the Catholic Summer Camp. It will be opened Tuesday to Thursday 9:30 to 1:00 for regular hours of operation.

CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP: Please keep in your prayers the 53 campers and leaders that will be attending the summer camp this week.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
 Alan Gerard Deveau and Margaret Theresa Crowell
 Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.