



## August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 20<sup>th</sup> 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 – August 16<sup>th</sup>– 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

**Sat. 4 pm** Michael Pothier  
**Sun. 9am** Anniv. Rose Deveau  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Parishioners  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Robert Deveau  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** Robert Revert  
**Thurs. 9 am** Jim LeBlanc  
**Fri. 9 am** John MacNamara  
**Sat. 4 pm** Parishioners  
**Sun. 9am** Helen Muise  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Mariette Comeau

#### Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

**Sun. 10 am Aug. 17** Yvonne Surette  
**Sat. 6 pm Aug. 23** Paulette Forbes

### REFLECTION: Spiritual Unity “Do you think that I



have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” Jesus

introduces this passage by saying, “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” The “fire” of which He speaks is His purifying fire of mercy that He poured forth from the Cross as He offered His life for the salvation of the world. His mercy is given to free us from our sins and to cleanse our souls so that God Himself can come to dwell within us. This is why we exist. God wants to dwell within us, and He wants us to be in perfect union with Him. One of the glorious effects of uniting yourself to God is that this union also brings about a spiritual bond with others who are united to God. We are made for communion with God, but also for communion with each other. God especially invites family members to share in this unity. Though there are many levels of friendship and unity we can have with each other, the deepest bonds come from two souls each being united to God. For example, two people may both like the same sports team or have the same interests, resulting in a bond or form of friendship. This is good. But when each of those friends also is deeply united to God, the unity comes from God and not from something more superficial. The challenging Gospel passage above reveals to us what happens when one or more members of a household fail to open themselves to the cleansing fire of God’s love and, therefore, fail to live in union with God. The result is disunity, at least on the deepest and truest level. God is not the cause of disunity; sin is. When one person is united to God and another is immersed in a life of sin, true spiritual unity is not possible. Of course, the two might still share some common interests and might even superficially get along each day, but there will never be an experience of authentic spiritual friendship and communion if God is absent from one or both hearts. When Jesus says that He has come to establish division within a household, He is simply pointing out that there will indeed be a division within a household when all are not united to God. Additionally, Jesus is warning us that if someone within our household tries to draw us into a life of sin with them, that person’s invitation must be rejected. And when that happens, that rejection is often experienced as a rejection of the person and results in even greater disunity. The bottom line is that it is not possible to be authentically united in sin or any form of lie. Reflect, today, upon the

deepest spiritual desire you have. If you are honest with yourself, you will discover that this deepest desire in your heart is the desire for love. We are made to give and receive love. First, this desire is fulfilled by opening ourselves to the love of God. When that happens, we will be able to share God’s love with others and receive God’s love from them. Nothing in life could be more fulfilling than this. *Most merciful Lord, You came to unite all people in Your love, but when Your love is rejected, we live in disunity. Please come to me and dwell more fully within me so that Your presence in my life will not only bring about a spiritual communion with You, but also with those who share this same love. Jesus, I trust in You.* -My Catholic Life

### 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!*

### COFFEE SOCIALS: Will be held after all the masses



this weekend August 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> in the Jubilee room. Please join us for a cup.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:



- Neither fear nor self-interest can convert the soul. They may change the appearance, perhaps even the conduct, but never the object of supreme desire... fear is the motive which constrains the slave. -St. Bernard of Clairvaux

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:

Looking to strengthen your marriage? experience a marriage encounter weekend September 26-28, 2025 being held at Between The Hearts Renewal Centre, Amherst NS. A Marriage Encounter Weekend experience is a special opportunity for husbands and wives to reconnect, deepen their love, and

rediscover the joy of being together. It’s not marriage counseling, a retreat, or a group therapy session - this is private time just for the two of you to grow as a couple. For more information, contact Joanne or Ron Arsenault, 506-451-8489 or email [ron.ioanne.arsenault@wwme.org](mailto:ron.ioanne.arsenault@wwme.org)

**FR HENRY AWAY FOR A FEW WEEKS:** I am away for the next few weeks and will be back September 9<sup>th</sup>. If there is an emergency, call the number in the bulletin. You can also leave me a message at the office for when I get back.

**ST. AMBROSE CHURCH ROOF COMPLETED:** Thank you once again for the financial support you have given for the new roof on St. Ambrose. After many weeks, it was completed last week. The work done should last us many years into the future. We have currently raised **\$269,129.00**. If you wish to donate still, you can put your donation in an envelope and mark it “Building Fund” or you can use an envelope in the pew. Fr. Henry

**MATTHEW 18 RENEWAL MEETINGS:** We take our name from the scripture Matthew 18:20 which states: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." We meet every Monday night at 7pm in the Jubilee room, unless it is a holiday or storm, " If the schools are closed, due to storm, there is no meeting." **Who are we?** We part of the Catholic Renewal, approved by the last several Pope's, and have representatives in Rome who report to the Pope. **What to expect?** We open the meeting with an opening prayer, then we sing songs of praise and worship, inspired scripture readings or inspired word from God. There's a time for sharing how God is working in our lives, or maybe how a reading or song struck a core in us. We finish the evening with prayers of petitions and 3 structured prayers. All are welcome to join us at any time. Maybe we are the spiritual nourishment you are needing in your life at this time. If you have any questions about our group, you can contact one of the Core members: Lorraine Manser at 902-749-1903, or Cheryl Harding at 902-740-3816.