



August 16th, 2026 20th 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 – Aug. 15th -23rd, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9 am Florence Harris
Sun. 11:15 am George and Dorothy Mooney Gibbs
Tues. 6:30 pm Frances Edwards
Wed. 6:30 pm Braiden Muise
Thurs. 9 am Blair Boudreau
Fri. 9 am Doug Scott
Sat. 4 pm Anniversary Basil McGuigan
Sun. 9 am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am George Atkins

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am August 16 Daniel Saulnier
Sun. 10 am August 23 Adele Saulnier

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: Divine Humiliation *“It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.”*

Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” Imagine the Son of God referring to you as a dog. For most people, that would be deeply offensive. So why would Jesus do such a thing? He did so, in part, to draw forth from this woman an act of profound humility and faith. Through this moment of divine humiliation, Jesus invited her to rise to a heroic response, prompting Him to exclaim, “O woman, great is your faith!” He desires to do the same with each one of us. When Jesus first encountered this woman, He saw into her soul and perceived the depth of her faith. As God, He knew everything about her—her suffering, her love for her daughter, her perseverance. He also knew He would heal the girl, yet He did not do so immediately. Instead, He engaged in what theology refers to as divine pedagogy—a method of instruction by which God teaches slowly, carefully, and with purpose. In this case, Jesus used the moment to teach His disciples—and us—a profound lesson about humility and unwavering faith. He tested her, and she passed the test marvelously. The location of this encounter is also significant. It took place in the region of Tyre and Sidon, in modern-day Lebanon—a Gentile territory known for its Greek-speaking population and pagan customs. The woman is specifically identified as a Canaanite, evoking the memory of Israel’s ancient enemies. And yet, it is precisely this outsider—this woman of seemingly little spiritual privilege—who becomes a model of the faith the chosen people were meant to embody. She first approaches Jesus, crying out, “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.” By calling Him, “Son of David,” she reveals her belief in His messianic identity. But what does Jesus do? Nothing. He appears to ignore her—not because He is displeased or uncaring, but because He is testing her faith, knowing full well she will persevere and shine. God often allows similar experiences in the lives of the faithful. It’s easy to assume that if we follow Christ, we will be shielded from difficulty. On the contrary, one of the most powerful ways God forms His saints is by allowing them to undergo trials. These trials, far from being signs of abandonment, are invitations to heroic virtue. They are divine tests. And God never permits more than we can endure by His grace. If that seems confusing

or difficult to accept, we need only look to the Son of God Himself. Though Jesus was perfect, it was the Father’s will that He endure the deepest depths of humiliation: rejection, persecution, suffering, and death. Through this ultimate “divine pedagogy,” the Son not only conquered sin and death but also taught us how to follow Him—by transforming our humiliation into humility, our weakness into strength, and our suffering into sanctification. In this way, God’s power is made perfect in our weakness. As the conversation with the woman unfolds, Jesus continues to appear distant, yet He knows she will not give up. Her faith and her love for her daughter drive her to persevere. She humbly persists through every trial, and in doing so, she wins grace—not only for herself and her daughter, but also for the disciples who witnessed the exchange and for all who read her story today. Reflect today on the ways God may be inviting you to a deeper faith through silence, delay, or trial. Could He be calling you, like this woman, to heroic humility and steadfast trust? Embrace those moments of divine testing, for they are often the very means by which His greatest works of grace are accomplished—in you and through you. *Divine Teacher and Guide, You teach us through Your Word, Your actions, and even through Your silence. When You are silent in the midst of trials and tribulations, grant me the grace to persevere in faith, trusting that You will never abandon me. Help me to understand that every trial You permit is an invitation to deeper trust, so that Your grace and glory may be revealed in me, and through me, shine forth to others. Jesus, I trust in You.* -My Catholic Life

COFFEE SOCIALS: The coffee socials will take place this weekend August 15th & 16th after all the masses 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!



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Raymond Benjamin Jacquard

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

ULTREYA: 95th Men’s Cursillo – October 15th- 18th, 2026. Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning “short course” in Christianity. It is a weekend that helps people to live as a Christian in normal everyday life and a desire to journey with Christ. Cursillo is not a retreat but an encounter with oneself, with Christ and with others. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more, please contact Larry Richard, 902-746-4256, jsll@persona.ca

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: I offer as a gift to Jesus my heart and my soul, that there may be nothing in me that is not consecrated to him.
~St. Rose of Lima

CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who supported the Catholic Summer Camp whether it was through prayer, donations or working the camp itself It was greatly appreciated by all. The camp wouldn’t be the success that it is without you!



WORK BEING DONE ON ST. AMBROSE: The next few weeks, some masonry work is being done on St. Ambrose. Last year when the roof was being replaced it was noticed that a brick wall was leaning because the mortar had disintegrated. The wall was also leaning. It was made safe with temporary bracing and engineers have looked at it. The next few weeks, it will be rebuilt from the outside and some repointing will also be done here and there on the church.