



August 27th, 2023
21st 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 26th –Sept. 3rd 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Anniv. Donald Parnell
Sun. 11:15 am Bill Rodgerson
Tues. 6:30 pm Bernard Paul Vacon
Wed. 6:30 pm Cory Amirault
Thurs: 9 am Mary B Scannell
Fri. 9 am Bruce Roberts
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Rose Deveau
Sun. 9 am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Bernard Bourque

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sat. 6 pm August 26 Marie Fitzgerald
Sat. 6 pm September 2 Stanley DeViller

REFLECTION: **The Foundation Within** Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”



Today’s Gospel scene takes place about twenty miles north of the Sea of Galilee outside of Herod’s jurisdiction and away from the Pharisees’ watchful eyes. This is a private conversation between Jesus and His disciples that took place where they could speak freely. For that

reason, this conversation is particularly personal in nature in that the disciples felt free to express their personal convictions without fear of retribution.

As the conversation unfolds, Jesus asks two consecutive questions. First, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Second, “But who do you say that I am?” By asking these two questions, Jesus first invites the disciples to identify the different opinions floating around about Him and then gives the disciples an opportunity to speak their own conviction. Peter responds on behalf of them all when he solemnly professes, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

If Jesus were to ask you these two questions, what would you answer? First, what is the general opinion about Jesus that most people have today? When asked, most Christians would give the correct answer. Jesus is God. He is the Savior. He is the Son of the Father. But sometimes those answers are more theoretical than they are personal. Often it is easy to believe things about Jesus rather than believing in Jesus. So, if you were to answer the second question, what would you say? Ideally, you would answer that Jesus is your Savior, your God, your Shepherd, your Lord. Faith in Jesus must not only be theoretical, it must be deeply personal, flowing from the depths of your heart.

Deep personal faith in Jesus can only come from one source. It comes from the Father speaking to your heart in a real and personal way. After Peter professed His faith in Jesus, Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.” Peter’s personal faith in Jesus was not just something he heard from others, it was not just a popularly accepted opinion, it was something that the Father in Heaven personally revealed to him. This is the gift of faith.

Peter’s personal profession of faith became the rock foundation on which Jesus built His Church. “And so, I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” This reveals Jesus’ plan to establish Peter as the head of the Church and to give to him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven for the whole Church. Similarly, our personal profession of faith will become the unshakable foundation within our souls upon which God’s Church becomes alive in each one of us.

When our faith is based upon a personal revelation from the Father in Heaven, spoken within the secrecy of our souls, then nothing can extinguish this faith. The gates of the netherworld cannot prevail against it.

Reflect, today, upon this holy conversation between Jesus and His disciples. As you do, know that Jesus wants to have the same conversation with you. As Jesus took the disciples away to this quiet and safe place, He wants to take you away through prayer to the privacy of your own soul. There, within you, He seeks to elicit a response of personal faith. He wants you to identify Who He is to you. He wants you to profess your faith to Him. This faith is your personal solid foundation, and upon that foundation our Lord will build up His Church in you and through you.

Glorious Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I believe this with all my heart. Please continue to deepen my faith in You by revealing to me Who You are. As You do, I pray that this gift of faith will become a rock foundation upon which You form me more fully in the life of holy virtue and grace. Jesus, I trust in You. -My Catholic Life

THE SEARCH: Do you have family or friends who do not come to Church? All of us know people who would benefit from encountering God and the Church, and from experiencing the peace, joy, and purpose that a relationship with Jesus brings. However, it can be intimidating to try to reach out and start a conversation about God, or invite these friends and family members to an event at our parish. Not sure how to invite someone? Sign up for a 4-session email and video series that will walk with you step by step in the comfort of your own home at <https://www.halifaxyarmouth.org/invite> Ready to invite someone? Then invite them to come to *The Search*. *The Search* is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence. *The Search* tackles questions such as “What do you Seek”, “Why a God?”, “Who is Jesus”, Why a Church? Whether they are a practiced inquirer or a jaded skeptic, *The Search* will speak to them. They may be reassured by some parts, and challenged by others. Either

way, they will find a lot here to think about. And when all is said and done, life’s questions demand to be answered. You can watch the trailer at <https://youtu.be/QOwZFL5Wpi8> or google “The Search Trailer”. Thursday evenings from October 5 to November 30, - 7:00 to 8:45 pm in the Parish Centre. No cost to attend. Registration required at 902 742-7151 or search.stambrose@gmail.com Offer to register your family or friends for them. Please leave your name and contact information along with the contact information of the person who will be attending. Questions can be sent to the above email or leave a message with the office and someone will contact you.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: It is better to be silent and



be a Christian than to talk and not be one. It is good to teach, if the one who speaks also acts. – St. Ignatius of Antioch

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

FOOD BANK: Next weekend, September 2nd-3rd, 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.

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be



held September 7th 2023 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

SUNDY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: The registration



for catechism classes for grades primary to eight will be October 1st and 8th in the Parish Centre between the 10:00am and 11:00 am. The first class for the 2023/2024 year will begin on Sunday October 15th at 10:10 am to 11:00 am.