



August 23rd, 2026 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 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. 22nd -30th, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniversary Basil McGuigan
Sun. 9 am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am George Atkins
Tues. 6:30 pm Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Deveau
Wed. 6:30 pm Bruce LeBlanc
Thurs. 9 am No Mass (Funeral Mass Robert Muise 1:00pm)
Fri. 9 am Anniversary Bill Rodgerson
Sat. 4 pm Special Intentions
Sun. 9 am Elaine Mahar
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am August 23 Adele Saulnier
Sun. 10 am August 30 Russell Clairmont

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 may be cancelled in the event of a funeral Mass. The Mass intention scheduled for that day will be offered at a later date.

REFLECTION: *Overcoming the Gates of hell* *Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the*

Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” The symbolism associated with Caesarea Philippi is central to today’s Gospel. Located north of Jesus’ home base in Capernaum, it was a predominantly pagan city known for its shrines to false gods. One of the most prominent was Pan, after whom the region was named Panias (later Banias). Pan, a Greek god, was honored at a shrine near a large cave and spring considered the entrance to Hades. Pan was the god of nature, shepherds, flocks, wild places, fertility, and rustic music, and was often depicted as half man, half goat, with horns and hooves. He played the pan flute and was associated with lust, chaos, and sudden fear—from which we get the word panic. Additionally, the city was the site of a temple dedicated to the late emperor, Caesar Augustus, who was worshiped as a god throughout the Roman Empire. It was into this spiritually dark pagan setting that Jesus led His disciples—on what may have been a two-day journey—for what culminated in a single, monumental question. Jesus took the Twelve away from the comfort of their familiar fishing village and Jewish neighbors for a reason. He wanted them to answer His question not in the midst of the familiar and safe, but in a place marked by spiritual confusion and idolatry. Why? So that faith could be professed even there, and divine grace could confront the darkness that permeated the region. At first, He asked who the people said He was. They answered, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” But then He posed the question that reached the heart of His mission: “But who do you say that I am?” This was a moment of divine testing—one which Simon passed with profound faith: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus’ extraordinary and consequential response has enduring significance to this day. He declared: “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. 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. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” With these

sacred words, Jesus founded His Church upon Peter, making him the first pope. In biblical tradition, a change of name signifies a new mission and identity. Simon, son of Jonah, was now to be called Peter—*Petros* in Greek and *Cephas* in Aramaic—meaning “rock.” Peter became the solid foundation upon which Christ’s Church would be built. No pagan power, false god, or earthly ruler would ever overcome what Christ established with divine authority. Reflect today on the significance of the papacy. Even now, in the successor of Saint Peter, the words of Simon continue to echo throughout the world: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This is the pope’s first and most important duty—to bear witness to Christ, the Son of God. Despite the personal weaknesses of some popes and the saintliness of others, it is Jesus who established Peter and his successors as the visible foundation of the Church. Pray for the Holy Father, and trust in the timeless witness of every pope since that first moment in Caesarea Philippi—a witness upheld not by human strength, but by Christ’s own promise. To profess faith in the papacy is to profess faith in the One who instituted it and endowed it with His divine authority. -My Catholic Life

INCENSE: Incense will be used next Sunday at the 11:15 mass only.

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!

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 replace 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.

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

FOOD BANK: The weekend of September 5th and 6th 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

NET RETREAT: NET is a National Evangelization Team which travels across Canada putting on retreats for youth. We will be having the NET team down to St Ambrose on Saturday October 3rd. There will be discussions, small group, skits and much more. It is for youth in grades 6 to 12. It will begin with registration at 9:00 am and the main retreat will begin at 9:30 am. lunch will be provided and the day will include mass at 4pm. We are asking to pre-register by September 24th. Please call the office at 902-742-7151. The gathering will take place in the Marian Hall. It’s an event the youth will truly enjoy!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: One who governs their passions is master of their world. We must either command them or be enslaved by them. It is better to be a hammer than an anvil. -St. Dominic



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Robert Eric Muise, Stephen Felton DeViller and Frances Louise Edwards.

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