



August 30th 2026 22nd 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. 29th-September 6th, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Special Intentions
Sun. 9 am Elaine Mahar
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Blanche Sheridan
Wed. 6:30 pm Paul & Marie deGrosbois
Thurs. 9 am Anniversary Donald Parnell
Fri. 9 am Lucille Deveau
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9 am Theresa Doucet
Sun. 11:15 am Donald Baker

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am August 30 Russell Clairmont
Sun. 10 am September 6 Anniversary Edith LeBlanc

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.**

REFLECTION: A Stark Contrast *“Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”* This scene likely unfolds in or near Caesarea Philippi, a Gentile region steeped in pagan worship. There, at the mouth of a cave long associated with the entrance to the netherworld—believed by some

pagans to be the very gate of Hades—Jesus had just questioned His disciples: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” and then more directly, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter, speaking with conviction on behalf of the Twelve, boldly proclaimed, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” Jesus responded by declaring him “Peter,” the rock upon which He would build His Church, promising that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Just moments later, Jesus issues one of the strongest rebukes recorded in the Gospels: “Get behind me, Satan!” The same Peter who had just spoken divine truth now speaks human fear and shortsightedness. In trying to dissuade Jesus from His suffering and death, Peter unknowingly opposes the very mission of the Messiah. Jesus calls this mindset not merely a mistake, but a diabolical temptation—echoing the same temptation He faced in the desert, when Satan sought to lure Him away from the Cross with promises of worldly glory. What a stark contrast. Peter goes from being the rock of faith to an obstacle in the Lord’s path. But why was Jesus so severe in His response? Because the stakes were eternal. The Cross is not optional. It is the means of salvation—not just for Jesus, but for all who would follow Him. To think otherwise, even with good intention, is to prefer human comfort over divine wisdom. Peter’s protest reflects a natural aversion to suffering, but Jesus exposes it for what it truly is: a stumbling block to the will of the Father. This dramatic Gospel scene is recorded for a reason. By calling Peter “Satan,” Jesus wanted to warn him—and us—of the real and ever-present danger of rejecting the way of the Cross. Like Peter, we can easily fall into the trap of wishful thinking and misguided compassion by saying about ourselves or those close to us, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen...” We are saying, in essence: “Lord, please make sure that neither I nor anyone I love ever has to suffer!” But such a prayer, though well-meaning, is clearly mistaken, and Jesus wants that point to be clearly understood. Peter was troubled because “Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.” But all that Jesus revealed about His suffering was good—very good. Though His suffering was inflicted by the

sins of others, His free and loving embrace of that suffering was the greatest act of love the world has ever known. Peter was blinded to this truth. He could not yet see beyond the horror of suffering to the divine good that would come through Jesus’ sacrificial embrace of it. Reflect today on Peter’s and Jesus’ words: “God forbid, Lord!” and “Get behind me, Satan!” In this exchange, Jesus is also speaking to each of us, saying, “Never run from the Cross!” We must never flee from a selfless and sacrificial embrace of suffering, even when that suffering is unjust. God can and will transform all freely embraced suffering into a means of His eternal glory and our sanctification. With our Lord, reject the evil one’s false empathy. Reject the lie that suffering is meaningless. Choose instead to lay down your life in love with Christ, and in doing so, you will rise with Him, victorious over every sin and diabolical lie, overcoming even the sufferings of this life through your free and faithful embrace.

-My Catholic Life

MEDJUGORIE PILGRIMAGE: September 27th to Oct 9th, 2026: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Father Mark Cherry, Spiritual Chaplain and Rhonda-Lynn Cormier, Group Leader. Cost - \$3699.00 includes airfare and all airport taxes from Halifax; twin accommodation, breakfast and dinner daily, professional local guide, day trip to “Little Lourdes” shrine, Makarska, Croatia. Single room supplement -\$350.00 Contact Rhonda-Lynn for info: 902-448-3660.

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!

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!

FOOD BANK: Next weekend 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

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2026 in Marian Hall at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there. DeColores!

MEETING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: Do you bring Communion to people in homes or to someone who is a relative? If so, there is a meeting after mass for you this weekend August 29th and 30th. Please stay behind for this short meeting. Fr. Henry



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Ada Yvonne Deveau.

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



Please welcome into our Christian community Carolina Rose Banks and Sophia Nafi Sane who were baptised on Sunday August 23rd, 2026.

Please keep Carolina and Sophia and their families in your prayers.