



**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary  
Time  
September 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
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**Tabitha Centre:** 902-742-8960  
**Reconciliation/confession** is available by appointment only at this time please call the office or email Fr. Henry directly for an appointment.

next scheduled mass is always posted on our website's main page. If you want to watch, go to our web site at [www.stambroseyarmouth.ca](http://www.stambroseyarmouth.ca) or go to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57](http://www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57)

**EMAIL TRANSFERS:** are available. Please send to [stambrosemail@gmail.com](mailto:stambrosemail@gmail.com) Please add your envelope number or personal information for income tax purposes.

**REFLECTIONS: Be Opened!** *Ephphatha!* — that is, “Be opened!” These are powerful words. Why are they powerful? They are powerful because they are more than



words. They are words that actually accomplish what they say. These words are spoken by Jesus after the deaf man is brought to Him with the request for healing. By saying the command “Be opened!” the deaf man’s ears are opened and his speech impediment is removed.

When Jesus speaks, His word changes things. This is true in this story but it is also true in our lives. We all are deaf and struggle with a speech impediment in the sense that we do not always hear the voice of God and we do not always speak His word and words of charity. For that reason, these words of Jesus must be spoken to us. We must let Him take us off to a quiet place alone and speak to us. We must let Him say those words to us. “Ephphatha!– Be opened!”

What is it that you are not hearing properly? What is it God has been saying to you for a long time that you refuse to hear? What is it you have allowed yourself to become deaf to? Let our Lord open the “ears” of your heart so that you can hear all that He wishes to say to you. Once that happens, Jesus will also help you speak His words of truth and love.

Reflect, today, upon how open you are to hearing the voice of God. We all struggle at times with listening, and we especially may struggle listening to God. Spend some time alone with our Lord and let Him heal you so that you can hear and understand all that He is saying to you.

*Lord, I do not always listen to You. Please speak Your words of healing to me so that I can hear You*

*more clearly. In hearing You, may I listen to all that You have to say. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**The True Blessings**

“Blessed are you who are poor...

Blessed are you who are now hungry...

Blessed are you who are now weeping...

Blessed are you when people hate you...

Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!”

Are the above statements typos? Did Jesus really say these things?

At first, the Beatitudes can seem quite confusing. And when we strive to live them, they can be very challenging. Why is it blessed to be poor and hungry? Why is one blessed who is weeping and hated? These are difficult questions with perfect answers.

The truth is that each Beatitude ends with a glorious outcome when fully embraced in accord with the will of God. Poverty, hunger, sorrow and persecution are not, by themselves, blessings. But when they befall us, they do offer an opportunity for a blessing from God that far surpasses any difficulty the initial challenge presents.

Poverty affords one the opportunity to seek out the riches of Heaven above all else. Hunger drives a person to seek the food of God that sustains beyond what the world can offer. Weeping, when caused by one’s own sin or the sins of others, helps us seek justice, repentance, truth and mercy. And persecution on account of Christ enables us to be purified in our faith and to trust in God in a way that leaves us abundantly blessed and filled with joy.

At first, the Beatitudes may not make sense to us. It’s not that they are contrary to our human reason. Rather, the Beatitudes go beyond what immediately makes sense and they enable us to live on a whole new level of faith, hope and love. They teach us that the wisdom of God is far beyond our own limited human understanding. Reflect, today, upon the incredible wisdom of God as He reveals these, the deepest teachings of the spiritual life. At very least, try to reflect upon the fact that God’s wisdom is far above your wisdom. If you struggle to make sense of something painful and difficult in your life, know that God has an answer if you but seek out His wisdom.

*Lord, help me to find blessings in the many challenges and hardships of life. Rather than seeing*

*my crosses as evil, help me to see Your hand at work in transforming them and to experience a greater outpouring of Your grace in all things. Jesus, I trust in You.* ~My Catholic Life

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** The source of justice is not



vengeance but charity. ~St. Bridget of Sweden

Seek God in all things, and we shall find God by our side. ~St. Peter Claver

**FOOD BANK:** This weekend September 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:**



Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 all members invited 6:00pm executive meeting and 7:30pm general meeting.

**Community Lunch:** will begin Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. All are welcome and masks must be worn unless you are sitting down to eat.

**4<sup>th</sup> Degree meetings:** will begin on October 19<sup>th</sup> due to the Faithful Navigator being away.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of  
 Derrick William Hattie and Donald Gregory Parnell.

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

**MASS INTENTIONS- September 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- Sat. Sept. 4 4pm** Edith Watkins and Paula Bishara
- Sun. Sept. 5 9am** Parishioners
- Sun. Sept. 5 10am (Melbourne)** Henry Surette
- Sun. Sept. 5 11am** Eva Robicheau and Brian MacKenzie
- Wed. Sept. 8 9am** Eleanor Brush and Gordon Brush
- Sat. Sept. 11 4pm** Sandra Surette and Wesley Spinney
- Sun. Sept. 12 9am** Mildred Corbett and Intentions of Gerry Rhyno
- Sun. Sept. 12 10am (Melbourne)** Eric Saulnier
- Sun. Sept. 12 11am** Parishioners

Please note we will not be carrying the gifts for the offertory until further notice.

*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.

**LIVE STREAM MASS AT ST. AMBROSE:** We live stream mass every Wednesday at 9:00 am and on the weekend at the Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am or 11:00 am mass on a rotating basis. The

**OFFICE CLOSED:** The office will be closed on

Monday, September 6 for Labour Day. We will re-open for regular hours on Tuesday, September 7. Have a safe holiday Monday!



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