



September 13th 2026 24th 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 – September 12th – 20th, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Gary Allen
Sun. 9 am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Florine DeViller
Tues. 6:30 pm No Mass (Funeral Mass David Saxton 11am)
Wed. 6:30 pm Charles Fells
Thurs. 9 am Ted Muise
Fri. 9 am No Mass (Funeral Mass 1pm Ethel Cottreau)
Sat. 4 pm Benny Boudreau
Sun. 9 am Michael Bourque
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am September 13 John Surette
Sun. 10 am September 20 Theresa Harris

REFLECTION: Exponential Mercy *“That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.”* Jesus tells this parable in response to Peter, who asked, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Peter likely

thought he was being generous. But Jesus invited him to go far beyond what he imagined, responding, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” The context is helpful. Not long before this dialogue, Jesus had changed Simon’s name to Peter—Petros—meaning “rock,” the foundation upon which He would build His Church. He further promised Peter that the gates of hell would not prevail against it and said, “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”. Soon after that, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where they were privileged to witness His Transfiguration—a glimpse of His divine glory. Peter had also witnessed many other miracles, some quite personal. For example, when asked by tax collectors whether Jesus paid the Temple tax, Jesus told Peter to go to the sea, cast a hook, and open the mouth of the first fish he caught. Inside, he found a coin worth twice the Temple tax—enough for both Jesus and Peter. Perhaps these recent events in which Peter played a privileged role left him feeling quite favored. He may have begun to think well of himself, sensing a special place in Jesus’ mission. Wanting to demonstrate his spiritual maturity, Peter made what he thought was a generous offer: to forgive his brother up to seven times. In Jewish tradition, to forgive seven times was seen as more than sufficient. The rabbinic teaching often suggested forgiving up to three times, based loosely on interpretations of the Prophet Amos. So, when Peter offered seven, he was doubling that and adding one for good measure—a symbolic act of exceeding piety. But Jesus’ response radically shifted the paradigm. Seventy-seven times—or, in some manuscripts, seventy times seven—is not a precise numerical limit. It’s a symbolic expression that conveys the idea of limitless forgiveness, echoing God’s own mercy toward sinners. Jesus was not simply raising the bar; He was inviting Peter—and all of us—into the boundless love of the Father. The parable Jesus then taught illustrates this clearly: Because God has shown us immeasurable mercy, we must extend mercy to others. But it also begins with a shocking image. When the king began the accounting and the servant who owed a “huge amount” was brought before him—an amount so

large he had no way of repaying—the master ordered that the servant, his wife, his children, and all his property be sold. This illustrates the incalculable debt we owe to God for our sins. Not only are we incapable of repaying it, but even everything we hold dear cannot cover the cost. At the heart of the parable is this truth: Unless we extend limitless mercy to others, we will be held accountable for our own unpayable debt before God. But if we imitate God’s mercy and forgive from the heart, that enormous debt will be entirely wiped away. Reflect today on the mercy you have received from God. Has He not been patient with you, gentle with your faults, and generous with His grace? Now consider someone in your life whom you have found difficult to forgive. Does that person’s offense compare to the debt God has forgiven you? Let this parable challenge you to a deeper conversion of heart, one that forgives as it has been forgiven, not seven times, but seventy-seven times, and more. Only then will the kingdom of Heaven truly reign in you. -My Catholic Life

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: People aspire to what is



beautiful and love it. But what is beautiful is also good. God is good. Everyone looks for the good, therefore everyone looks for God. - St. Basil

COFFEE SOCIALS: The coffee socials will take place next weekend September 19th & 20th 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!

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!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Grief is a difficult process. Grief does not go away; however, we learn to grow around it and expand our lives beyond it. Have you lost someone recently, or well in the past? It may help to share your experience, or perhaps just hear from others who may have insight into what you are going through. Stories are medicine. Join us at the Marion Hall on Albert St, Yarmouth on September 17th from 1pm to 3pm. This group may help ease your suffering.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation for this year will include Grade 8 and Grade 9. Registration and Information session, for the Sacrament of Confirmation for youth this year, will take place on **Sunday, September 20th, 2026, at 12:30 pm** at the Parish Centre. This meeting/registration is for parents and students and is mandatory to attend. The first class will commence immediately after the meeting for students, at 1:00 pm and end at 4:00 pm. Students are asked to bring lunch. Snacks will be provided. Any questions please call Debbie Muise at 902-774-0373.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: 4th Degree



Meeting Tuesday September 15th, starting with a healing rosary at 6:30 pm followed by a general meeting at 7:00 pm.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
David Paul Saxton, Michael David Muise,
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.