



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
**Parish Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Stephen Bourque  
**Fr. Henry Email:** frhenrys@gmail.com

**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 available by appointment only at this time please call the office or email Fr. Henry directly for an appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS—December 5 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	
Sat. Dec. 5	4pm Edward Deveau and Ellie Robichaud
Dec. 6	9am Agnes Hurlburt and Ernie & Madeleine Landry
Sun. Dec. 6	10am (Melbourne) Celeste Muise
Dec. 6	11am Parishioners
Wed. Dec. 9	9am Sister Ricarda and John, Alexander & Mary Maclsaac
Sat. Dec. 12	4pm Parishioners
Sun. Dec. 13	9am Theresa Davis and Etienne Arsenault
Dec. 13	10am (Melbourne) Cecil Fitzgerald
Dec. 13	11am Jadon Robinson and Marilyn & Earl Goudey

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.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God. ~St. John Damascene

**MASS SIGNUP:** If you would like to attend mass, we ask you to please call the parish office between the hours of 9:30 to 1:00 Monday to Friday to register.

**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 next scheduled mass is always posted on our website's main page. If you want to watch, go to our web site at [www.stambrosearmouth.ca](http://www.stambrosearmouth.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.

**FOOD BANK:** this weekend December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated.



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** the Christmas mass schedule for this year has yet to be determined. We will let you know as soon as one is available!



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS:** All in person activities for the month of December have been cancelled. This includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree meetings and community lunch.



**CELEBRATIONS FOR OUR BISHOP:** In light of the most recent COVID-19 precautions, we have adjusted our planned celebrations for December 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica. Due to these new restrictions, on December 8 at 12:15pm Archbishop Dunn will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Mass, livestreamed from Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP:** On April 13, 2019, Pope Francis appointed Most Rev. Brian Dunn as the Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. From that time, Archbishop Dunn served with Archbishop Anthony Mancini in Halifax until November 27, 2020, when Archbishop Mancini retired from his office on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. At that time, Archbishop Dunn



immediately became the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. Archbishop Dunn comes to the diocese after serving for 10 years as the Bishop of Antigonish, and before that, serving as an Auxiliary Bishop of Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario after his episcopal ordination on October 9, 2008. Archbishop Dunn was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, on January 8, 1955 and was ordained to the priesthood on August 28, 1980. He was then assigned to a number of parishes in the Diocese of Grand Falls until 1988, when he enrolled at Saint Paul University in Ottawa in studies in Canon Law and completed his Doctoral studies in 1991. In September 1919, he was assigned to parish ministry at the Cathedral in Grand Falls, NL. He also worked as Vice-Chancellor and later Chancellor for the Diocese of Grand Falls as well as being involved in teaching theology and pastoral ministry with the Atlantic School of Theology. In 2002, he joined the faculty at St. Peter's Seminary, in London, Ontario and from 2005 until 2008, he had served as Dean of Studies. He was ordained as a bishop in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL and served as Auxiliary Bishop of Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario until January 2010. He was installed as the Bishop of Antigonish on January 25, 2010.

**FYI: Anonymous letter about the priest not wearing a mask at the Consecration:** I recently received an anonymous letter in the collection about the priest not wearing a mask during the Consecration. It was said in this note that I am breathing on the hosts. I just want to assure people that this is not true. The Hosts you receive are in a covered ciborium which stays covered for the whole mass until it's time for people to receive (except for the one that I consume). I also purify my hands a few times during mass, like before I set up the altar, and then again after I put on my mask, I purify my hands once more before I pick up the ciborium to distribute Communion. Please know that we follow all the many pages of guidelines set out by the diocese and by Dr. Strang. If you are uncomfortable receiving Jesus during this time of COVID-19, then an option might be to come up for a blessing at Communion time. If you have an issue with something, please include your name so I can discuss things with you. Fr. Henry

**MISSALS:** The Living Faith yearly missals are ready for pickup at the parish office for \$5.00 each. For those who may have forgotten to order we have extras available. The word Among us daily missals are also available for November and December for \$3.00 each.



**REFLECTIONS:** *Second Sunday of Advent*

*Reflections* "A voice of one crying out in the desert. 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" [Mark 1:3](#)

On this, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are given the person of St. John the Baptist to ponder. What a gift he is! Jesus Himself stated that "among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist". What a compliment! What is it that made John so great? We can point to two things in particular. The first has to do with his calling and the second has to do with his virtue. First of all, John was great because he was the transition from the Old Testament Prophets to the New Testament. He was the bridge that prepared for the new life to come. His unique mission makes him truly great. But John was great not only because of his unique calling, he was also great because of the virtue he had in his life. And it is this gift that is worth pondering for our own inspiration more than any other. The particular virtue that John had was that of humility. He saw himself as nothing other than a "voice of one crying out in the desert." And the Word he spoke was Jesus. John acknowledged that he was not even worthy to stoop down and untie the sandal straps of Jesus ([Mark 1:7](#)). He was praised by many and followed by many and yet he continuously said of Jesus that "He must increase and I must decrease". John was not in it for praise and honor; rather, his mission was to point everyone to the Savior of the world. He could have sought the honor and praise of many and he would have certainly received it. They may have even made him king. But John was more than willing to fulfill his mission and then submit himself to the cruel sword of his executioner. His humility was such that he was focused only on Jesus and desired only to point to Him. Reflect, today, upon this humility in your own life. Do you tend to point to yourself or to Christ? Do you seek the praise of others or do you humbly point all praise and glory to God? Humility is the path that St. John the Baptist took and it's the path we must strive for each and every day.

~My Catholic Life