



December 7th, 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent

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 – Dec. 6th – 14th, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Florence Harris
Sun. 11:15 am Antoinette Belliveau
Tues. 6:30 pm George & Bernice Blades
Wed. 9am Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thurs. 9 am Ernest Fred Muise
Fri. 9 am Anniv. Larry Burke
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Clarence Surette
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Florence, Forman & Joan Surette

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am December 7 Evite Saulnier
Sun. 10 am December 14 Daniel Saulnier

REFLECTION: Repentance—the Foundation of Holiness

Reflections “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” This passage comes just before Jesus is baptized and begins His public

ministry. John the Baptist had been ministering in the desert of Judea, preaching, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Many came to him to be baptized with a baptism of repentance. But when John saw many scribes and Pharisees coming to him, he said, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” The passage above is John’s warning to them—and to us—about what will happen if we fail to repent. At that time, when wheat was harvested, it was left to dry. Then, a winnowing fan was used to blow the wheat and chaff into the air. The lighter chaff would blow away, while the grains of wheat would fall to the ground to be gathered, milled into flour, and used for baking. John uses this familiar image to depict what Jesus will do with the righteous and the wicked. The righteous are like the grains of wheat that will be gathered and brought to Heaven. The wicked are like the chaff that, once separated from the righteous, will burn in the unquenchable fire of hell.

Though it is comforting to speak of the glories of Heaven and to anticipate being brought there by our Lord, it is necessary to also consider the reality of the unquenchable fires of hell. Pondering the reality of those unquenchable fires is something we should not neglect.

In his spiritual classic, *The Spiritual Exercises*, Saint Ignatius of Loyola presents a format for a thirty-day directed silent retreat, considered by many to be the ideal retreat experience. During the first week of that retreat, the retreatant focuses primarily upon mortal sin and its consequences—the unquenchable fires of hell. Why would Saint Ignatius begin his retreat this way? Because he understood that the foundation of our growth in union with God is repentance, and repentance requires an honest and thorough examination of sin and its consequences.

Reflect today on the unquenchable fires of hell, and allow yourself to foster a burning desire to flee from every sin that leads to that end. As we enter the second week of the penitential season of Advent, ponder this warning from Saint John the Baptist. Hear him speak those words directly to you. We must fear sin and avoid it, as much as we want to avoid the unquenchable fires of hell. Start with this foundational truth, so that having fostered deep

repentance, you are ready to turn your heart and mind toward the glorious promise of Heaven. -*My Catholic Life*

ST. AMBROSE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE

December 24 Wednesday (Christmas Eve)

6:00 pm
8:00 pm
10:00 pm Please join us for carols prior to mass.



December 25 Thursday (Christmas Day)

10:00 am

December 31 Wednesday (New Year’s Eve)

6:30 pm

January 1 Thursday (New Year’s Day)

10:00 am

Please note there is no masses before 6:00 pm as directed by the diocese.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Wednesday December 24th (Christmas eve)

6:00 pm



WOMEN’S ADVENT STUDY:



Encountering Emmanuel, a Women’s Advent Study will be held in the Adult Faith Formation room at the St. Ambrose Parish Centre from 9:30-10:30 am every Monday from November 24 to December 22. No registration required. For more information call Liz Richard at 902-307-6456.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:



Anyone wishing to donate towards Christmas flowers for **Our Lady of Lourdes** in memory of a loved one may do so at the office or you can put your donation in an envelope with your name and envelope number on it along with “in memory of _____” written on it and place it in the collection basket.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly



Meeting: will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Tuesday, December 9, all members invited. (Executive meeting at 5.30; Supper at 6.30 General meeting at 7:30) A **4th Degree Meeting** will be held at the Knights

of Columbus Hall on December 16 starting with a rosary at 6:30 followed by the meeting at 7:00. There will be **no 4th Degree meetings** in January or February 2026. **Knights of Columbus are looking for new members, if interested and would like more information, please contact Roy Alemao Grand Knight at (902) 791-0851.**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: The star of Mary immaculate shines down on the path of Advent... What person is more luminous than Mary? Who can be for us better than the star of hope, the sunrise that proclaims the day of salvation? -Pope Benedict XVI



CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE: CWL and friends –



are having a Christmas social, December 13 at 2-3:30 in the Jubilee room - tea, sweets, cheese and crackers - prayer service, ideas for next gathering.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE:



There will be a reconciliation service Wednesday December 10th at 6:30 pm here at St. Ambrose. Why not make this Christmas extra special with feeling the deep forgiveness this sacrament can give?

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT:



Saint Ambrose is having their annual *Night of Joy Christmas concert* on Sunday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds to Tabitha Centre.

MATTHEW 18: There will not be any meetings on December 22nd and 29th. We will resume meeting on January 5th in the New Year.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
James Alfred Harris
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.