



December 10th 2023 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
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS –December 9th – 17th 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Curtis LeBlanc
Sun. 11:15 am Gerard MacKinnon
Tues. 6:30 pm Anniv. Marilyn, Earl & Stephen Goudey
Wed. 6:30 pm Jean Cottreau
Thurs: 9 am Eric & Jason Ryan
Fri. 9 am Intentions of Xavier Johnston
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Clarence Surette
Sun. 9 am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Georgina Blanchard

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am December 10 Marion Pothier
Sun. 10 am December 17 Emile Comeau

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



REFLECTION: *Called to the Desert* The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will*



prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." These, the opening lines from the Gospel of Saint Mark, present us with Saint John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate preparer for the Savior of the World. Perhaps if most people were given the task of instructing John on how best to prepare the way for the Lord, they would tell him he must go to the leaders of the people, the civil authorities, the influential and those of status in society to win them over first. Many would conclude that the Messiah needed to have the full support of the leaders at that time. But that's obviously not what John did. John the Baptist, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven not into the homes of the most prestigious and wealthy, not into the halls of the civil governors, and not into the synagogues or Temple. Instead, John was driven into the desert. And in the desert, that dry and deserted place, he drew many people to himself and to his message of repentance. God continues to call many today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. Though John was a real person sent on a real mission at one particular moment in time, the mission he fulfilled is one that still needs fulfilling in various ways today. The "way of the Lord" still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and He needs prophets to prepare the way for His continual coming by grace. Are you one of those people? Truth be told, every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, etc., is called by God to prepare the way for His coming by grace every day. We are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This is done by the witness of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God calls. How is God calling you to do His work? He is certainly calling you. You simply need to be open to that calling and generously respond. Reflect, today, upon that "desert" to which you have been called, so as to prepare yourself and

others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not. It might be your family, work environment, community, among friends, or any place that lacks the superabundance of God's grace. Seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord's grace to those in need.
 – My Catholic Life

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 24 St. Ambrose & Our Lady of Lourdes

10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24 – St. Ambrose

6:00 pm Children's Mass

8:00 pm

10:00 pm

December 24 – Our Lady of Lourdes

6:00 pm

December 25 Monday – St. Ambrose

10:00 am

December 30 & 31 – St. Ambrose

Regular weekend Mass times

December 31 – Our Lady of Lourdes

10:00am

January 1 Monday – St. Ambrose

10:00 am

NOTE: The diocese has requested that we not have mass before 6:00pm on Christmas Eve this year because it is on a Sunday.



LOOKING FOR A PRIEST TO VISIT YOU IN THE HOSPITAL?

At one time, when you were admitted into the hospital, the hospital would ask you what religion you were and you would be added to the list of Catholics (if you were Catholic). Then, people would go around and bring Communion to people on this list 3 or so times a week. Things have changed. There is no longer a list being made. Thus, we have no idea who is in the hospital (that is Catholic) at any given time. Therefore, if you or a family member is in the hospital and you or they would like a visit from a priest, call the number for the priest on call 902-746-8233. It is normally our hospital chaplain Fr. Wieslaw who will answer. Also, if there is someone you know who is in need of a visit from a priest, please check with

them first if they would like a visit and then let the priest know. The nurse's station also has this number and will call the priest in for Sacrament of the Sick when someone is very sick or dying, when it is requested. NOTE: Just a reminder, that you don't have to wait until the last minute to do this. Please try to call the priest for Sacrament of the Sick during the day if possible.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:



Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So, Pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself. –St. Ignatius of Antioch

COLLECTION ENVELOPES:



2024 envelopes are available for pick up in the entrance of the church.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE:



There will be a reconciliation service Thursday December 14th 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 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Proceeds to Tabitha Centre.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT:



The Evangel Assembly on 2 Myrtle Street will be holding their The 10 Voices of Christmas concert Saturday December 9th and Sunday December 10th at 6:30.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS:



Monthly Meeting: Tuesday December 12th, all members invited Educative meeting 6:00pm, general meeting 7:30pm

COFFEE SOCIALS:



Will be held after all the masses next weekend December 16th & 17th. Come join us for a cup.