



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<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 12<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>4pm Parishioners</b>
	<b>Dec. 13</b>	<b>9am</b> Theresa Davis and Etienne Arsenault
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec. 13</b>	<b>10am (Melbourne)</b> Cecil Fitzgerald
	<b>Dec. 13</b>	<b>11am</b> Jadon Robinson and Marilyn & Earl Goudey
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Dec. 16</b>	<b>9am</b> Clarence Surette and Pius & Cecilia Landry
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec. 19</b>	<b>4pm Parishioners</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Dec. 20</b>	<b>9am</b> Michael Joseph Maloney and Joseph Maloney
	<b>Dec. 20</b>	<b>10am (Melbourne)</b> Vivian Surette
	<b>Dec. 20</b>	<b>11am</b> Narcisse & Freda Surette and Jean Cottreau

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:** In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear.  
 ~St. Therese of Lisieux

**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.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:(Feast of Mary Mother of God):** This feast day (Jan 1st) is a day of obligation just like every Sunday is a day of obligation. Because of COVID, we are asking you to **sign up** for this mass if you wish to attend it. The mass will be celebrated at 10am on January 1st (and also Live Streamed). If this mass is filled to capacity, we will add an additional mass New Year's Eve. Please call the office **December 21st or 22nd** to register if you want to attend this mass.

**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.stambroseymouth.ca](http://www.stambroseymouth.ca) or go to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57](http://www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57)

**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. The Living Faith booklets are now available for January-March for \$2.00.

**REFLECTIONS: Purification by the Fire of God**

*Reflections* John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Again, this Sunday, we are given the glorious witness of St. John the Baptist. This passage above is from Year C of the liturgical cycle, but Year A & B also present us with John the Baptist. In this sermon of John, he

says that Jesus will come and baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire." The image of being baptized "with fire" is a good one to reflect upon. It especially reveals to us the deep purification Jesus desires for our souls. What does it mean to be purified? For one thing, purification of our soul hurts. But it hurts in a sweet sort of way. Turning from sin and growing closer to God requires great sacrifice and surrender. And it requires that we allow God to do powerful things within us. And the most powerful thing God wants to do is purify us. Our Catholic faith reveals to us the reality of Purgatory after we die. Purgatory is said to be a place of much spiritual pain, but again, in a sweet sort of way. It's painful in the sense that we are stripped of all that we hold on to that God wants us to let go of. It's painful in the sense that we endure a complete transformation of who we are and what we love. We learn to love God and God alone. And in the embrace of our love of God, we come to love all people. It's also sweet because, as we are purified, we grow infinitely closer to God and grow in holiness. This lifts the burden of sin and frees us to love as we ought. But our purification ought not start only in Purgatory. We are all called to enter into that process of purification here and now. We are called to heed the words of John the Baptist today and repent of all that keeps us from holiness of life. Reflect, today, upon the purification to which God may be calling you. What is it that you hold on to that He wants you free of? Commit yourself to the purifying fire of God's love and let that love cleanse you in this Advent season.

~My Catholic Life



God's abundant blessings upon Ryan Stewart Goudey and Dominique Hope Muise who were married on 5 December, 2020 at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral.

As you begin your married life together, may you trust and rely on God's Holy Presence for guidance, direction and strength.