December 14th, 2025
3rd 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. 13th – 21st, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. **4 pm** Anniv. Clarence Surette
Sun. **9am Parishioners**
Sun. **11:15 am** Florence, Forman & Joan Surette
Tues. **6:30 pm** Mildred Bourque
Wed. **6:30pm** Anniv. Georgina Blanchard
Thurs. **9 am** Nelson Muise
Fri. **9 am** Doucet Family
Sat. **4 pm** Donald Doucet
Sun. **9am** Marilyn, Earl & Stephen Goudey
Sun. **11:15 am Parishioners**

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. **10 am December 14** Daniel Saulnier
Sun. **10 am December 21** Narcisse & Freda Surette

REFLECTION: Rejoicing in the Cross *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."* Suppose a priest came to your church to put on a parish mission, and during that mission he miraculously healed the blind, crippled, terminally ill, and deaf. What if he even raised the dead to life? How would you respond? Most likely with amazement! You'd contact everyone close to you and tell them about those miracles, encouraging them to attend the next session. Though Jesus' ministry was filled with miracles, they were far from the most important part of His mission. His miracles healed bodies that would eventually die, but His preaching healed souls that would live forever because His preaching ultimately pointed to His greatest work—to suffer and die for the salvation of souls. If you were alive as Jesus walked the earth, performed miracles, preached the Good News, suffered death and rose again, which of His actions would have the greatest effect on you? When we consider our Lord's mission, we must consider it all as one unified whole, not missing the most important aspects. From a faith perspective, Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection are clearly His greatest acts. By freely embracing suffering and death, He transformed the worst into the best: the consequence of sin—which is death—into the instrument of eternal life. When Jesus said, "And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me," He was identifying those as blessed who discovered the great value of His Cross. If we were to ask Jesus' first followers whether they would prefer to see Jesus perform miracles or suffer and die, most likely they would prefer the miracles. Such a question might have even left them confused. Why would anyone want to see a great prophet suffer and die? Yet, today, from a theological perspective, it is clear that Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection are the greatest acts in human history. Imagine being our Blessed Mother who witnessed it all, stood by her Son as He endured His Cross, and rejoiced with Him when He rose. Unquestionably, if we asked our Blessed Mother whether she preferred to see a few miracles from her Son or to witness His perfect sacrifice that brought salvation to the world, her holy and sorrowful heart would choose the latter. Reflect today on these questions within the context of your own life. When you pray, do you primarily ask for favors, blessings, or miracles? Or do you primarily pray for the Cross? Do you see greater value in having God remove some suffering from your life or in transforming your suffering by the power of His Cross? Ask for the grace to die with our Lord, to become a living sacrifice of love, and to have the strength to lay down your life for others. By choosing that which has eternal value, you choose the better part and will rejoice in that better part forever. -My Catholic Life

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Advent means that every person and every Christian is and should be an Advent person- not just in this part of the Church year, but also in his or her entire life. This means being a person who cooperatively enacts the one and final moment of the world and history toward God's arrival in it in freedom, in faith, hope and love. -Karl Rahner, SJ

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: 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.**

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.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT: Saint Ambrose is having their annual *Night of Joy Christmas concert* on Sunday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. It's a free will offering with proceeds going to Tabitha Centre.

COFFEE SOCIALS: There will not be any coffee socials for the Month of December. They will resume the third Saturday and Sunday in January.

CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed Tuesday December 23rd to Friday December 26th and will be open for Monday December 29th 9:30am to 1:00. The office will also be closed on January 1st and reopening for Friday January 2nd 2026 for regular hours of operation.

Please welcome into our Christian community Félix Alain Boudreau who was baptised on Sunday December 7th, 2025.

Please keep Félix and his family in your prayers.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Bernice Ann LeBlanc
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.