



December 17th 2023 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
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS –December 16th – 25th 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Clarence Surette
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Georgina Blanchard
Tues. 6:30 pm Anniv. Larry Burke
Wed. 6:30 pm Narcisse & Feda Surette
Thurs: 9 am Baline & Ryan Anthony
Fri. 9 am Tara Amon
Sat. 4 pm Michael Pothier
Sun. 10 am Parishioners
Sun. 6 pm Special Intentions
Sun. 8 pm Special Intentions
Sun. 10 pm Special Intentions
Mon. 10 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am December 17 Emile Comeau
Sat. 4 pm December 23 Ina DeViller
Sun. 6 pm December 24 Melissa Holly Burke (LeBlanc)

REFLECTION: Meeting Christ in the Desert “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’” as Isaiah the prophet said.” In the passage above, Saint John the Baptist

quotes: “A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” This was a prophecy of Isaiah who was speaking about the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Normally, people would travel along the well-watered routes from Mesopotamia to Israel. Those routes were safer than the desert and provided the necessary food and water for the journey. But Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish exiles would travel the shortest route—straight across the desert—and that God would provide for their needs during that journey. Such a journey required much trust in the providence of God.

John the Baptist, in quoting Isaiah, applies this prophecy to himself. He was called to cry out in the desert and point people directly to the Messiah. It was in the desert that they would discover their Savior. First of all, John cries out in the “desert.” His message is for those who experience dryness, destitution, need and loss in life due to sin. His message of repentance is first for those who are without the spiritual nourishment God wants to bestow upon them through grace. The message of John is pointed to those who humbly see the difficult situation they are facing in life and acknowledge their need for the Living Water of the Savior of the World. Second, this new “straight” way implies that many are not walking the direct path to Christ. Instead, they are taking unnecessary detours in life. John’s message is one that calls everyone to the straight and direct way of repenting of their sins so that they can come to faith in Christ Jesus. Third, walking through the desert to find Christ requires trust in God’s providence. It takes courage to make such a journey. Trust in the ongoing providence of God, Who promises to meet all of our needs, is key. One would not walk straight through the desert if they did not trust their guide. Advent is a time to reexamine the road you are on. Are you trying to find your own way to happiness? Are you trusting in your own abilities, your own intelligence and your own plan for the future? If so, then listen to the “voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” Listen to Saint John speak to you, calling you to the simplicity of the desert, to a greater detachment from all things, to an abandonment of all that is not of God, and to a more willing trust in the providence of God to lead

you. Reflect, today, upon this calling from the desert and listen to the message God is speaking to you, personally. Abandon all worldly concerns, repent of sin, trust in Him and go out to meet Him so that you can more quickly and more easily come to a deeper faith in our Lord during this Advent season. *My loving Lord, You are there, waiting for me in the darkness and dryness of my sin. You are waiting for me to lead me and guide me through the many challenges I face in life. Please give me the courage and wisdom I need to trust in You enough to follow You wherever You lead. Jesus, I trust in You.* – My Catholic Life

ST. AMBROSE CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE:

December 24 St. Ambrose

10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24 – St. Ambrose

6:00 pm Children’s Mass

8:00 pm

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

December 25 Monday – St. Ambrose

10:00 am

December 30 & 31 – St. Ambrose

Regular weekend Mass times

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.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Sat December 23rd

4:00 pm

Sun December 24th (Christmas eve)

6:00 pm

Sun December 31st

10:00 am

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.

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

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: We are such a value to God



that he came to live among us... and to guide us home. He will go to any length to seek us, even to being lifted high upon the cross to draw us back to himself. We can only respond by loving God for his love. –St. Catherine of Seina

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.

THANK YOU: to all the people who came to help



with the pre-Christmas church cleaning at Our Lady of Lourdes. It was greatly appreciated and a job well done!

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE: May 17– 27, 2024:

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje where Our Lady has been appearing daily for 42 years. Cost of \$3570 includes all airport taxes, security, fuel surcharges, airfare from the Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$250/p.) **INFO:** Hector Caissie at hectorcaissie@gmail.com or 506-857-2295.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
 Rose Elizabeth “Betty” Muise
 Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.