



May 4th, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter

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 –May 3rd- 11th, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Alex McIntosh
Sun. 9am Deceased members of the Bishara Family
Sun. 11:15am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Gerald Pothier
Wed. 6:30 pm Anniv. George Cottreau
Thurs: 9 am No Mass (Funeral Mass Annette Pothier 10am)
Fri. 9 am Anniv. Victor Boudreau
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Special Intentions
Sun. 11:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am May 4 Anniv. Agnes Doucette
Sun. 10 am Herbert Muise

RFLECTION: One Hundred and Fifty-three Large



Fish When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” They answered him, “No.” So he said to them, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” So, they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. Recall the

first time there was a miraculous catch of fish in the Gospels. Jesus was preaching to the people on the shore from where He sat in Peter’s boat just a short distance away. After preaching, Jesus told Peter, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Peter did so and there was such a large catch of fish that the Apostles needed help to haul it in. In today’s Gospel, some three years later after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples from the shore and instructed them to cast their nets “over the right side of the boat.” They did so and caught 153 large fish. In commenting on these two passages, Saint Augustine teaches that the first miraculous catch was a sign that the Gospel would be preached to all people, which is indicated by Jesus simply saying “lower your nets.” But after the Resurrection, Jesus specifically tells the disciples to cast their nets “over the right side” to indicate that grace is now given to those who stand on His right side and are separated from the condemned who are on His left. Thus, this second miraculous catch symbolizes the end of the age when the good and the bad are judged. Saint Augustine also notes that the 153 large fish, caught off the right side of the boat, are a symbolic representation of those who conform not only to the Ten Commandments but also receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit by grace. He explains that $10 + 7 = 17$ and if you add all the numbers together between 1 and 17 you arrive at 153. Thus, these 153 fish represent everyone who receives His gift of grace and obtains salvation. The boat represents the Church, and the gift of salvation is offered by Christ through His Church. One clear message we must take from Saint Augustine’s interpretation is that grace and mercy are offered to all, but not received by all. At the end of our lives and at the end of the world, judgment will take place. Those who responded to the offer of grace and mercy, repented of their sins and gave their lives to Christ will eternally share in the Resurrection. But those who refused to follow His Commandments and closed themselves to the transforming power of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be separated from eternal joys. Facing the reality of hell is not pleasant, but it is a message that must not be ignored. It is a message that is real and, therefore, hell is a possibility for us all. Therefore, it is important to remind ourselves from time to time of this spiritual truth. Are you among those 153

large fish found on the right side of the boat? Do you allow the ministers of Christ within the Church, represented by the disciples in the boat, to draw you to Christ through preaching and the Sacraments? Though all of us might quickly answer “Yes” to that question, we should never fail to be attentive to the fact that salvation requires action on our part. It requires that we accept Christ Jesus by following His Commandments and live by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as it is dispensed by the Church. Reflect, today, upon the symbolism found in this Resurrection account. Consider the fact that the Gospel has, indeed, been shared with you. Have you listened to the Word of God as it is preached by the Church? Do you immerse yourself in the grace given through the Sacraments? Do you follow the Ten Commandments faithfully? Do you continually open yourself to the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Seek to be among that catch of fish caught on the “right side.” Never doubt that hell is real and possible. For that reason, never waver from your fidelity to Christ, so that you will remain firmly grounded in His grace and share one day in His Resurrection. -My Catholic Life

CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP: August 10th - 15th at



Johnston Christian Park, South Range, Digby County. \$225.00 early bird fee by June 30th. After this it will be \$250.00. It’s for youth ages 10 to 14 and you can get a registration form at the Parish office or on the website. **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:** If you are able and would like to make a contribution to help, send a youth to camp, please submit your donation into the collection at Mass (with pertinent information) or stop by the parish office. Please mark that you are sponsoring for summer camp.

FOOD BANK: This weekend May 3rd and 4th, is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated. Members of the Knights of Columbus will be on hand before all the masses to receive the donations.

COFFEE SOCIALS: Will be held after all the masses the weekend May 17th & 18th in the Jubilee Room. Come join us for a cup.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:

Tuesday May 13th, all members invited 6:00 pm executive meeting and 7:30 pm general meeting. A 4th Degree meeting will be held on Tuesday May 20th at 7.00 pm; all 4th Degree Knights are encouraged to attend.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Since happiness is nothing



else than the enjoyment of the supreme good, and the supreme good is above us, no one can enjoy happiness unless they rise above themselves. -St. Bonaventure

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE: Share a cup of



Love- CWL members will be selling teacups filled with a variety of little plants as Mother's Day gifts on May 10 & 11 - after masses in the Jubilee room for \$10.

SPRING CONCERT: with St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral Choirs **Sunday May 25th at 7:00 pm.** Freewill offering in aid of the Tabitha Center.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED CATHOLICS: Healing and Reconciliation Marriage is a lifetime commitment; however, separation and divorce can occur resulting in wounds of stress and pain. The Catholic Church seeks to reach out to divorced people in an effort to help heal the wounds, while affirming its teaching on the permanence of marriage. Anyone interested can contact the marriage tribunal in the diocese where one lives. For more information please view our website at www.halifaxarmouth/marriage-tribunal or contact: Cathy Targett: ctargett@halifaxarmouth.org or 902-429-9800 ext. 321.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Dorothy Veronica Kent
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.