



April 19th, 2026 3rd 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 – April 18th-26th, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniversary Pat Saulnier
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Rose and Lee Purdy
Tues. 6:30 pm Patricia Ann Ayer
Wed. 6:30 pm Anniversary Yvonne Rodgerson
Thurs. 9 am Edwin, Marie and Harold Doucette
Fri. 9 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sat. 4 pm Intentions of the Nuttall and Saeme Families
Sun. 9am Our Lady of Good Counsel
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am April 19 Leah Boudreau
Sun. 10 am April 26 Arthur Muise

REFLECTION: Dispelling Confusion

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. These two disciples were overwhelmed by grief and bewildered by the events that had taken place. As

they walked the seven-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus, they expressed their sadness and confusion. Jesus, Whom they had hoped “would be the one to redeem Israel,” was brutally tortured and crucified before their eyes. After His death, He was buried, and that very morning they heard reports from some of the women, as well as Peter and John, that His body was missing from the tomb. What’s more, the burial cloth was neatly rolled up in the tomb, and the women informed the disciples that they saw “a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.” The two did not know what to think. As the story unfolds, Jesus appeared to them as they walked and conversed with them, “but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.” Jesus’ hidden presence teaches us that He is often with us, in our midst, yet we do not recognize Him. Distractions, trials, or our own misconceptions can dull our spiritual senses. We often fail to perceive His presence in the Eucharist, the Scriptures, the Church, during our prayer, and in one another. Jesus’ loving rebuke of these two disciples was intended to wake them up: “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Every time we stumble from spiritual blindness, which leads to confusion, our Lord lovingly says the same to us. We must take that rebuke with humility, acknowledging our blindness and inability to perceive His constant presence. Jesus then “interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.” This opening of their minds to the spiritual Gift of Understanding is key. By humbly acknowledging our spiritual blindness and the foolish way we often go about our daily lives, we dispose ourselves to this precious gift. The Gift of Understanding cannot be acquired by our own effort. Only after we honestly humble ourselves before God will He open our minds to all we need to know and understand. Once they arrived in Emmaus and invited this divine Stranger to stay with them for the night, Jesus agreed. As they dined, “while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.” The Lord Himself, the great High Priest, gave them the Eucharist, and suddenly “their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but

he vanished from their sight.” Though our Lord vanished from their sight, He remained with them, as He does with us today. His presence in the Eucharist is His True Presence, His Divine Essence. By revealing Himself in the Scriptures and the Breaking of the Bread, He teaches us that He is always with us in His Word and in the Sacraments. We consume His Word through daily meditation, study, and the teachings of the Church. His True Presence is with us when we attend Mass and participate in the Sacraments. Reflect today on the initial confusion of these two disciples, filled with sorrow and bewilderment as they grappled with recent events. Contrast this with the growth in faith they likely experienced in the months and years ahead. Little by little, they grew in understanding and belief, allowing their misconceptions about who the Messiah would be—not a political leader, but the Savior of the World—to be dispelled. Whenever you face confusion, turn to the example of these disciples and learn from the lessons taught through them. Seek Christ in His Word and Sacraments, trusting that He will dispel doubts and guide you to greater faith. -My Catholic Life

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: 4th Degree



Meeting: Tuesday April 21st, starting with a healing rosary at 6:30 pm followed by a general meeting at 7:00 pm. **Community Breakfast** Sunday April 26th at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children 12 and under.

CURSILLO: 96th Women’s will be held May 21 to 24, 2026. Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning “short course” in Christianity. It is not a retreat but an encounter with oneself, with Christ and with others. If you, or someone you know might be interested in learning more, please call Agnes Robicheau at 902-746-9881, agnes.robicheau@yahoo.com or if you would like further information about Cursillo contact <https://cursillocanada.org>.

INCENSE NEXT WEEKEND: Incense will be used at 11:15am mass next weekend.

WOMEN’S SPRING RETREAT: Women After God's Own Heart: Prayerful, Faithful, Generous, Merciful, Sent. Retreat Leader: Fr. Toochukwu Oka for our

Third Annual Women's Retreat will take place at St. Monica's Church in Middleton on Friday evening May 15; Saturday, May 16 all day and evening; and Sunday morning May 17, including Holy Mass. Fr. Toochukwu will explore the meaning of our theme for our everyday lives, drawing on the inspiration of women of the Bible and women saints. There will also be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and opportunities for Sacrament of Confession. Continental breakfasts, lunches (wraps/sandwiches), fruit & vegetable trays, and supper (homemade soup and chili) will be provided. This retreat is sponsored by St. Monica's Catholic Women's League. In order to make this spiritual refreshment accessible for all interested women, there is no registration fee. (Free Will offerings are welcomed and appreciated). Wheelchair/walker accessible; ample parking; no scents, please. You are warmly invited to come away for a while to pray with other women and be renewed in faith, hope, and joy!

To register, or for more information about the retreat and local accommodations, please contact: Mary Crooks at 902-825-6495 or mtcrooks@hotmail.com.

PLEASE SIGN THE MAID PETITION: As Christians, we are called to care for the vulnerable and uphold the dignity of every life. If no action is taken before March 17, 2027, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) will be expanded to include individuals whose only medical condition is mental health-related. Suicidal thinking can be a symptom for those living with mental illness. When patients share their desire to die, it’s time to use suicide prevention strategies. However, the NS medical regulator requires physicians to offer euthanasia to patients as one of their potential medical treatments without patients requesting that information and, if the patient requests it, sign referral forms so their patients can get euthanasia. Imagine the dilemma of the Christian physician who is forced to help the patient access euthanasia rather than treating them. **Next weekend we will be asking you to sign a letter of petition** which we will be sending to the Honourable Brian Comer, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, to ask for stronger protections, improved mental health supports, and changes to physician legal requirements.