



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
**Hospital Chaplain:** Fr. Wieslaw Papuga  
 902 - 746 – 8233 (Hospital)  
**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 held on Wednesday  
 after mass from 9:30-10:00

### MASS INTENTIONS – March 19<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Sat. 4pm** Lisa Smith and Malcolm & Philip Trefry  
**Sun. 9am** Arnold & Agnes Porter and Maria Ceglowska  
**Sun. 10am (Melbourne)** Georgette Saulnier  
**Sun. 11am** Parishioners  
**Wed. 9am** Isabelle Sweeney and William Letteney  
**Fri. 9am** Mass with Archbishop Brian Dunn  
**Sat. 4pm** Parishioners  
**Sun. 9am** Rose Deveau and Greg & Barb Deveau  
**Sun. 10am (Melbourne)** Clifford and Vina Muise  
**Sun. 11am** William Murphy and Florence Murphy

**LIVE STREAM MASS AT ST. AMBROSE:** We live stream mass every Wednesday at 9 am and on the weekend at the Saturday 4pm and Sunday at 11 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.stambrosearmouth.ca](http://www.stambrosearmouth.ca) or go to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57](http://www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57)

**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.

**REFLECTION:** Exhausting the “Soil” of Mercy “Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.”



Every gardener knows that good fruit is, in part, dependent upon the presence of good soil. But other factors are also important in the production of good fruit. The plant must be free of disease, receive water and sun, be planted in a warm environment, be properly pruned, and have enough space to grow. When all factors are present, good fruit is guaranteed.

So, it is with our lives. The soil in which we are to be planted is the mercy of God. And this soil is the richest soil attainable for the production of the virtues in our lives. God also produces the sun, the rain, and the warmth that is needed for our growth. But, analogously speaking, we must allow ourselves to be pruned. We must also allow the soil to be fertilized and cultivated in a variety of ways. Though Jesus is the Gardener of our lives, it's also fair to say that we are the gardeners in the sense that we must cooperate with our Lord, relying upon the supernatural resources of the Creator to ensure the healthy growth of our spiritual lives so that the good fruit of virtue may be born in our lives. This passage above is the conclusion to the Parable of the Fig Tree. Just prior to this passage, the owner of the vineyard, God the Father, ordered that the barren fig tree be cut down so that it will no longer exhaust the soil. But our merciful Lord, sent on mission from the Father to till the soil of our lives, seeks to offer one more chance and the Father obliges out of love. This life is that “year” by which our Lord works fervently to cultivate the soil around us. We must cooperate through daily prayer, fidelity to His commands, acts of loving sacrifice and surrender to His providence. In the end, if we allow our Lord to do all He desires, our lives will bear good fruit.

But on the flip side, make no mistake about the fact that, if our lives do not bear good fruit, we will be “cut down.” Bearing good fruit is not an option, it's a must. It's a clear indication of our spiritual health and it will become the measure of our eternal reward or eternal death. Do not be intimidated by such sharp language coming from our Lord. He

spoke it in love so that we will know the serious duty we have to bear good fruit in our lives. Reflect, today, upon the outward signs of your inward spiritual health. Do you see the virtues sprouting forth from your life? Are you aware of the work God desires to do in your soul so as to cultivate it and fertilize it with grace and mercy? Say “Yes” to Him this day and allow that grace to produce an abundance of good fruit.

**PRAYER FOR UKRAINE:** O Lord our God, look down with mercy on the Ukrainian people. Protect and save them from the unjust aggressors who seek to subdue them. Grant them steadfast trust in your mercy and protection.

O Mother of God, who gave us your miraculous icon at Zarvanytsia, intercede for the Ukrainian people, who run to the shelter of your mercy in their times of need.

O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Grant peace and protection to the people of Ukraine. Give them strength and courage to defend what is good, right, and holy. Keep them safe from harm and provide for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual. Hear our prayers, O Lord, and deliver us from distress, for You are merciful and compassionate and love mankind. To You we give glory: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen

**Donations to the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis can be made through:** (Any contribution to the Canadian Red Cross would be doubled by our government.)

- [Development and Peace](#)
- [Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Inc \(CNEWA\)](#)
- [Canadian Red Cross](#)

**May all of us gather in prayer and fasting in order to be in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.**

**LENTE RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** There will be a Lenten confession service held here at St. Ambrose on Tuesday, **March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm.** This is a good opportunity to fulfill your obligation of going to confession at least once a year and feel the deep peace God wants to give each one of us.



**FISH CHOWDER FRIDAYS:** We will be offering take out fish chowder on the Fridays of Lent. If you wish to purchase the chowder, we ask you to call the parish office by Wednesday to place your order. The cost is \$6.00 and it may be picked up at the Marian Hall doors between 4:00 and 5:00.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** will be held on every Friday during Lent at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral at 6:30pm. Each week, it will be led by a different group. Please note we will have a recorded one available on our website for the duration of Lent.



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen away and to bring home those who have lost their way. -St. Francis of Assisi



**EASTER FLOWERS:** Anyone who would like to make a donation towards Easter flowers for **Our Lady of Lourdes Church** in memory of a loved one may do so by either putting your donation in an envelope with your number on it and placing it in the collection basket or at the parish office.



**FOOD BANK:** The weekend of April 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated. Please do not place monetary donations in your collection envelopes. The food bank is also in need of egg cartons.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of  
 Gladys Emma Little  
 Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.