



March 3rd, 2024 3rd Sunday of Lent

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Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
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Office hours: Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – March 2nd – 10th, 2024

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Lisa Lusk
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Anniv. Rose Purdy
Tues. 6:30 pm Lou Lesser
Wed. 9 am Vickey Jeddry
Thurs: 9 am Roderick MacInnis
Fri. 9 am Special Intentions
Sat. 4 pm The Doucette Family
Sun. 9am Codie Saulnier
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am March 3 Margaret & Lawrence Clairmont
Sun. 10 am March 10 Ray Bowers

REFLECTION: A Dual Cleansing

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." All four Gospels speak of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple. However, there is a

difference between the way this event is portrayed in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and in the way it is portrayed in John's Gospel. John's Gospel places this event at the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry during the first of His three annual trips to Jerusalem for the Passover. This was His first attempt at cleansing the Temple. Jesus was also less severe in John's version of the story, stating only that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "marketplace." In the three Synoptic Gospels, this event takes place at the very end of Jesus' public ministry, less than a week before Jesus' death when He returned to Jerusalem for the last time. In those versions, Jesus was more severe, stating that the moneychangers had turned His Father's House into a "den of thieves" and not just a "marketplace." In commenting upon the differences between John's version and the Synoptics, Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas believe that they are two different occasions when a similar act of cleansing of the Temple took place. The Jewish Temple, at the time of Jesus' public ministry, was the place people traveled to each year for Passover to offer the sacrifice of a spotless male lamb in commemoration of the first Passover in Egypt when God set the Jews free from slavery. During this annual celebration, Jewish families who traveled to Jerusalem would purchase a lamb for sacrifice. At the appointed time, they slaughtered the animal in the courtyard of the Temple and then presented it to the priest who gathered some of the blood and sprinkled it on the altar, and then removed the skin, organs and fat to be burned in sacrifice. The meat was returned to the family and roasted on a pomegranate branch so that they could feast on it as they recalled the saving action God granted their ancestors in Egypt. Today, we see the Jewish Temple as a symbol and prefiguration of Christ, the New Temple Who is also the priest and the Lamb of Sacrifice. Recall, also, that at Jesus' death, the veil of the Temple was torn in two, opening it up to the whole world so that all may share in the Sacrifice of the Lamb of God. We are now invited into this Holy of Holies to share in the new life of grace accomplished by His Sacrifice. Since the grace of this Sacrifice of our Lord enters into each and every heart that believes, to cleanse and purify, then every person receiving this grace becomes a new dwelling place of God, a member of

His new Temple, the Body of Christ. When Jesus came to the Passover feast and witnessed the buying and selling of these animals in the Temple, He drove them out with much zeal. It was clear that this holy celebration of the Passover had become less of a celebration of faith and more of a marketplace for profit. Jesus' action is also a symbol of the zeal with which He now seeks to cleanse the temple of your soul. At first, when sin and disorder pervade our souls, our Lord may take the approach of a gentle rebuke, as He did in His first cleansing of the Temple in John's Gospel. If we persist in our sins, then our Lord will become more zealous in His cleansing as He was in His final attempt to cleanse the Temple the week before He died. Reflect, today, upon this twofold cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem by our Lord and apply Jesus' sacred actions today to your own soul. Are there new sins that you have fallen into recently that require a gentle rebuke from our Lord? Are there sins that Jesus has been revealing to you for years now that you obstinately persist in? Allow Him to rebuke you in love and to cleanse you so that His saving Sacrifice as the Lamb of God will indeed purify you, and allow His judgment and wrath to "passover" you this Lent.

My cleansing Lord, You cleansed the Temple of Jerusalem not once, but twice. Your zeal for its purity of worship was clear. Please come and make my soul Your dwelling place today and cleanse me of all sin. Please help me to especially see any ways that I have remained obstinate in my sin, and please cleanse those sins with much vigor. Jesus, I trust in You.
 -My Catholic Life

ULTREYA: The next Yarmouth Area Cursillo Movement Ultreya is on March 7th at 7pm at St. Ambrose Marian Hall. **Cursillo Weekends** will be held May 16-19

(Women's) and May 23-26 (Men's) 2024 at St. Ambrose Parish. Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "short course" in Christianity. It is a weekend that helps people to live as a Christian in normal everyday life and a desire to journey with Christ. Cursillo 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 contact either Chester Muise: 902-653-0329 or Liz Richard: 902-307-6456.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held on the Fridays of Lent at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral at 6:30pm. Each week will be led by a different group.



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 to place your order. The cost is \$7.00 and it may be picked up at the Marian Hall doors between 4:00 and 5:00.



FOOD BANK: This weekend, March 2nd-3rd, 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.



KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting: Tuesday March 12th, all members invited 5:30pm executive meeting, 6:30 supper and 7:30pm general meeting. **4th Degree Meeting** will be on March 19th at 7:00 pm.



COFFEE SOCIAL AND PANCAKE & SAUSAGE

SOCIALS: The Coffee social will be held after the 4pm mass on March 16th as usual. The Pancake & Sausage socials will be held following the 9am & 11:15 masses on March 17th. As a result of bad weather, we cancelled the Shrove Tuesday supper but we had already bought the supplies so, we decided that it would be rescheduled in place of the two coffee socials. There is no charge to attend however if you wish to give a donation there will be a free will offering box available with all the proceeds going to the youth who will be attending the Steubenville Atlantic conference this summer.



RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There will be a reconciliation service **Wednesday March 6th at 6:30 pm** here at St. Ambrose. Why not make this Easter extra special with feeling the deep forgiveness this sacrament can give? Please note that the Wednesday evening Mass will take place at 9am in the morning.

