



## January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

**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 – January 24<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

#### St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

**Sat. 4 pm** Anniv. George Nixon  
**Sun. 9am** Parishioners  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Anniv. Ron Muise  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Edgar Amirault  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** Linda E LeBlanc  
**Thurs. 9 am** Holy Souls in Purgatory  
**Fri. 9 am** Michael Pothier  
**Sat. 4 pm** Heather Amerault  
**Sun. 9am** Stanley & Louise Bourque  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Parishioners

#### Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

**Sun. 10 am January 25** Anniv. Loring Clairmont  
**Sun. 10 am February 1** Julia Deveau

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE GIFTS** in the offertory procession at a weekend Mass (if you are a family member of the person the Mass is for) please see the greeters **at least 20 minutes before Mass begins.**

**Please note:** The weekday Mass will be cancelled in the event of a funeral Mass. The Mass intention scheduled for that day will be offered at a later date.

**REFLECTION:** **God's Permissive Will** *When Jesus*



*heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee... From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,*

*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* When John the Baptist was arrested, his followers were likely overcome with fear and grief. The man they revered as a prophet, who fearlessly proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and called for repentance through baptism, had been imprisoned. John was arrested by Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, infamous for ordering the massacre of infants in Bethlehem. Like his father, Herod Antipas was ambitious and morally corrupt. As tetrarch of Galilee and Perea under Roman authority, Herod's political survival depended on maintaining Roman favor. He often used religion to secure legitimacy among the Jewish people, though his actions routinely violated Jewish law. Though nominally Jewish, the Herodian dynasty was of Idumean descent, tracing its lineage to Esau rather than Jacob. The Idumeans were forcibly converted to Judaism between 135–104 BC. While this history granted the Herods a claim to Jewish identity, their foreign lineage and collaboration with Rome made them unpopular with many Jews. Herod Antipas, like his father, prioritized political cunning and personal ambition over genuine adherence to Jewish law. When John the Baptist emerged on the scene, he proclaimed his message with fearless conviction. His central call was one of repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins, urging the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Yet John did not shy away from addressing the moral and spiritual corruption of his time. He famously denounced the Pharisees and Sadducees as a “brood of vipers,” rebuking their hypocrisy and lack of genuine repentance. John also boldly condemned Herod Antipas for violating Jewish law by divorcing his wife and marrying Herodias, the wife of his half-brother, Philip. This marriage not only violated Mosaic Law but also reflected Herod's ambitions to consolidate power and status. John's fearless denunciation of sin, even among the powerful, ultimately led to his arrest and eventual martyrdom. This historical context surrounding John's arrest is crucial because it helps us understand God's providence—how He permits certain evils to occur in order to bring about a greater good. Jesus Himself later affirmed John's greatness, saying, “Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist”. If the Son of God declared John's greatness shortly

after John's arrest, why didn't God miraculously free him from persecution? The answer lies in John's mission. He had fulfilled his primary role: preparing the way for the Lord, the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”. Once John's mission was complete, God permitted him to seal his testimony with his own blood, offering his life as a martyr for the Lord and for the Truth that sets all people free. Reflect today on John's arrest and consider how you might have reacted if you had been one of his disciples. From an earthly perspective, martyrdom is difficult to comprehend or accept, especially in our own lives or in the lives of those we love. Though John's arrest and subsequent martyrdom likely brought fear and grief to his disciples, shaking their sense of security, from an eternal perspective, John's martyrdom was his greatest act of witness. It fulfilled his mission by pointing his disciples—and all of us—toward the true Prophet and Messiah, Jesus Christ. John is forever glorified in Heaven, and in the end, that is all that truly matters. As we honor John's unwavering faith, seek to embrace God's permissive will in your own life. Even in the face of suffering or evil, trust that God, in His providence, can bring about a greater good if we surrender ourselves fully to Him. -My Catholic Life

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** We have a great deposit in children; let us attend to them with great care. -St. John Chrysostom



**STEOBENVILLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:** This high school conference is for youth going into high school in September and peer leaders ages 19 & 20 that would be interested in attending this summer's conference from July 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in Halifax. This weekend conference is a chance to gather with your peers and experience your faith in a way you never have before. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office to ask for more details. We hope to see you there!

**PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORIE:** May 13– 24, 2026: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Hector Caissie. Cost of \$2795 (plus taxes) includes airfare from the Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local

guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$250/p.) **Payment by e-transfer, bank transfer or cheque gets a REBATE of \$250.00** **INFO:** Hector Caissie at [hectorcaissie@gmail.com](mailto:hectorcaissie@gmail.com) or 506-857-2295.

**INCENSE THIS WEEKEND:** Incense will be used at 11:15am mass & on the last Sunday of every month.

**LEGACY GIVING:** As Catholics, we believe that our assets are gifts from a generous God, and that we are called to be wise stewards of these blessings. Have you ever thought about leaving a legacy gift to Saint Ambrose? This is a way for you to help in continuing the Church's mission long after you are gone. Please remember St. Ambrose Parish in your will.

**OLD PALM:** If anyone has old palm from last year, starting next week, you can leave it in the container at the back of the church or you may burn your old palm yourself at home.



**FOOD BANK:** Next weekend, January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. **Please note for future food bank collections: In days of inclement weather, the collection will take place at the entrance inside the Church.**

**ULTREYA:** The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held February 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!



**DECREE OF NULLITY:** "The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth invites people with questions or concerns about the application for nullity process to contact the Marriage Tribunal Office. The office is open and ready to assist anyone who seeks additional information or guidance in how to begin the process. We can be reached by phone at 902-429-9800 ext. 321 or please visit the "Marriage Tribunal" on the Archdiocesan website [www.halifaxyarmouth.org](http://www.halifaxyarmouth.org) under "Pastoral Services".