



January 22nd, 2023 3rd 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)
Office hours: Monday to Friday
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS —January 21st- 29nd 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Lawrence & Beryl Melanson
Sun. 9am Pius & Cecile Landry and Int. Of Linda Randall
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30pm John Pauze
Wed. 6:30 pm Anniv. Ron Muise
Thurs: 9 am George Nixon
Fri. 9 am Mildred Frost
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9 am Delby & Louise Saulnier
Sun. 11:15 am Kenneth Bourque

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am Jan. 22 Ina DeViller
Sun. 10 am Jan. 29 Loring Clairmont

REFLECTION: A New Era of Hope From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In Matthew's Gospel, from which we read today, we hear the first words spoken by our Lord as He begins His public ministry: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Up until this point, Matthew's Gospel presented us with Jesus' genealogy, His birth, the story of the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, the



slaughter of the Holy Innocents, Jesus' baptism, the preaching of Saint John the Baptist and Jesus' forty days in the desert. Now, after these introductory stories of Jesus' life, we enter into His public ministry.

Recall that John had just been imprisoned, thus concluding his public ministry. Therefore, the time for the preaching and ministry of the Son of God had arrived. And though Jesus continues the theme of repentance started by John, Jesus takes John's words further. Jesus adds something that John could not: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Since we are still at the beginning of the season of Ordinary Time, it's important to understand this transition from the Old Testament prophets, of which John was the last, to the New Testament preaching of our Lord. The difference is that all that had been prophesied and pointed to in the Old Testament had now arrived. Saint Jerome, in commenting upon this passage, says that as the Old Testament Law ceased, the Gospel commenced. And, of course, the fulfillment of this new era of the Gospel was only a few short years away when our Lord would offer up His life for the salvation of many.

As Jesus begins His preaching, His words are challenging but also very hopeful. By saying that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," Jesus stirs interest and holy curiosity among His first listeners. His call to repentance was softened by His new proclamation about the Kingdom. One helpful insight we can take from these first words of Jesus' public ministry is that this is the best way to share the Gospel with those who do not yet follow Christ. Oftentimes, when we see someone living in serious sin, we want to judge and condemn. But usually what they need the most is hope—hope that there is something much greater that comes from repentance. Certainly, we need to speak against sin. But one of the most effective ways to do so is by initially offering the listener hope of something much better than the sin with which they struggle—specifically, the hope of the Kingdom of God.

Reflect, today, upon the newness of the ministry of Jesus, the newness of the first proclamation of the Gospel. As you do, try to imagine the holy curiosity that many would have had as they first listened to Jesus preach. Soon He would follow up His

preaching with many signs and wonders that would confirm His message. But at first, Jesus simply instilled a hope in His hearers. As you ponder this, think about those in your life who also need this initial sense of hope and holy curiosity about the Gospel and pray that God will inspire you and use you to be an instrument of this merciful message.

Lord, as You began Your public ministry of proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven, You instilled hope and a holy curiosity in the minds and hearts of Your first hearers. Please continue this good work and use me as You will to be an instrument of this hope in those, I encounter every day. Jesus, I trust in You.
-My Catholic Life

QUOTES OF THE WEEK: Whatever you do, whatever your skills and whatever your age - you can live your life for the glory of God. Let this inspire you to take action today. Even the smallest act for God can make huge changes in someone's life. -St. Dominic Savio



LECTORS NEEDED: We are in need of people to read at mass. As Christian disciples we are called to give the three T's of TIME, TALENT and TREASURE. Please consider becoming a lector. If you are interested, please call the office. We will be doing some training sessions after each mass once we have a few new people. Thank you for your generosity in giving back to the parish. Fr. Henry



ST. AMBROSE SKI TRIP: After a two-year break, we are happy to say that the annual to Martock is coming up on Saturday, February 18th. The cost is \$30.00 a person. We have a limited number of spots so it will be first come first served. The event is for youth and families ages 8 and up. For more information, please contact the parish office 902-742-7151.



ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: We are hoping to soon be going back to having altar servers again at all of the masses. If you are a youth who has received first Communion and would like to help in this ministry, please contact the office.



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



PARISH LIBRARY: Did you know we have a parish library in the Parish Center? We have many good books to choose from. Books on saints, spirituality, biographies and many other topics. Come and check out what we have and borrow one!



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 under "Pastoral Services".

ULTREYA: The next Yarmouth Area Ultreya will be February 2nd at 7pm in the Marian Hall at St. Ambrose. Welcome to all!



FOOD BANK: The weekend of February 4th & 5th, 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.



COMING THIS LENT ... DIVINE MERCY IN THE SECOND GREATEST STORY EVER

TOLD: Starting February 23rd, I (Fr. Henry) will be doing a video series on Divine Mercy. Divine Mercy has been called the second greatest story ever told (the Bible being the greatest). The series is "an amazing visual presentation that will challenge and enthrall you." It runs for 5 weeks every Thursday evening at 6:30 in the Jubilee Room. Check out the preview on our main webpage. Please come and join me this lent.

