



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
**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  
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**Tabitha Centre:** 902-742-8960

**Reconciliation/confession** is available by appointment only at this time please call the office or email Fr. Henry directly for an appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS—December 19 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	
Sat.	Dec. 19 4pm Parishioners
	Dec. 20 9am Michael Joseph Maloney and Joseph Maloney
Sun.	Dec. 20 10am (Melbourne) Vivian Surette
Dec. 20	11am Narcisse & Freda Surette and Jean Cottreau
Wed.	Dec. 23 9am NO MASS
Thrus.	Dec. 24 4pm Special Intentions
	Dec. 24 6pm Special Intentions
	Dec. 24 8pm Special Intentions
	Dec. 24 10pm Special Intentions
Fri.	Dec. 25 9am Parishioners
Sat.	Dec. 26 4pm Pauline Shaver and Dora Jacquard
Sun.	Dec. 27 9am Jane Muise and Adele Robicheau
	Dec. 27 10am (Melbourne) Avite Saulnier
	Dec. 27 11am Parishioners

Please note we will not be carrying the gifts for the offertory until further notice.

*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.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** Christmas isn't just a temporal celebration or the memory of a beautiful event; Christmas is more... Christmas is an encounter! ~Pope Francis

**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.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:(Feast of Mary Mother of God):** This feast day (Jan 1st) is a day of obligation just like every Sunday is a day of obligation. Because of COVID, we are asking you to **sign up** for this mass if you wish to attend it. The mass will be celebrated at 10am on January 1st (and also Live Streamed) Please call the office **December 21st or 22nd** to register if you want to attend this mass.

**LIVE STREAM MASS AT ST. AMBROSE:** We live stream mass every Wednesday at 9:00 am and on the weekend at the Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am or 11:00 am mass on a rotating basis. The 8:00 Christmas Eve mass and the 9:00 New Year's Day masses will also be live streamed. 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.stambroseymouth.ca](http://www.stambroseymouth.ca) or go to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57](https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57)

**REFLECTIONS: The Witness of Mary and Joseph**

*Reflections* "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." [Luke 1:38](#) As we enter into the fourth week of Advent, we are given our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to reflect upon. Though our Blessed Mother was perfect, and St. Joseph was a deeply virtuous man, they were both still fully human and would have walked through Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' birth with every human emotion and experience. St. Joseph was faced with an extraordinary mystery as he discovered his wife was pregnant. He knew her to be a woman of exceptional virtue and holiness and had to reconcile that with her surprising pregnancy. Even after the angel appeared to him in a dream, he would have had questions arise in his mind as he faced this situation. Our Blessed Mother was also invited by God to face her pregnancy in faith. Her response was perfect, "Let it be done to me according to your word." She

could not explain nor understand what was happening but, nonetheless, she knew deep in her soul that God was in charge leading all to His glory. Both Mary and Joseph are wonderful models of faith and obedience. They were obedient to the will of God despite the fact that the will of God drew them into an incredible and unfathomable mystery. They were first-hand witnesses to the salvation of the world and to the greatest act ever known. And they both embraced this mystery and accepted it in faith.

Reflect, today, upon your own invitations from God to embrace the mysteries of life. God's ways are often more than we can comprehend and figure out. Mary and Joseph give us the witness of how we are to handle every mystery God invites us to participate in. Say yes to the will of God just as this holy couple did.

*Dearest Mother Mary and Saint Joseph, pray for me that I may have the faith you both lived. When questions arise in my heart, help me to respond generously to God as you did. May I trust in all that God has spoken in imitation of each one of you. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**FR. HENRY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:** In the hustle and bustle that leads up to our celebration of Christmas, many of us find ourselves asking, "What's it all about?" We sometimes wonder in the rush, the stress and the hurry, whether we have somehow missed the real meaning of it all. Christmas came upon us fast. Along with Christmas comes the time for gathering ... gathering with family and gathering with our church family. Because of COVID, your Christmas experience is probably much different this year. I know our Church experience is very different. Having to turn away people who normally come to celebrate Christmas eve mass has not been easy. COVID can suck the life out of Christmas if we let it. It can be especially hard for people who have had to isolate from others, like the elderly. Joy is something I spoke about recently in my homily, that even when things are hard like they have been with COVID with all the limitations it causes, we can still have joy in our hearts if we allow Jesus in. This Christmas then can be a time we get back to the real meaning of Christmas which is about Jesus entering into the world ... our

world. May God bless us all in this New Year and may Jesus enter into our hearts and give us the gift of peace only He can give. Fr. Henry

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S LIVESTREAMS**



**December 24 – St. Ambrose**  
8:00pm mass will be livestreamed! Please join us for carols starting at 7:40.

**January 1 – St. Ambrose**  
The Feast of Mary Mother of God will be livestreamed at 9:00 am for those of you watching from home!

**Note: Please don't come to a mass you are not registered for. There is a 100-person limit per mass because of COVID restrictions and all masses are now full.**



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of  
 Larry William Burke  
 Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Please note the office will be closed **OFFICE CLOSED** December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be open December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**ST. AMBROSE CHOIRS SINGING SILENT NIGHT:**



Check out our website to listen to Silent Night done by all our choirs together through the magic of computers. Even your own Pastor has a part!