



December 18th, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent


Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
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Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS — Dec. 17th -25th, 2022

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4pm Inten. Barbara Bishara **and** Special Intentions
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Gerard MacKinnon **and** Joan Surette
Tues. 6:30pm Mariette & Ricky Trefry **and** Earl & Irene Ryan
Wed. 6:30 pm Blaine & Ryan Anthony **and** Anna & Loren
Murphy
Thurs: 9 am Marion Moody **and** Dora Surette
Fri. 9 am Steven Harding **and** Susan Hickey
Sat. 4 pm Sarah Lyons
Sat. 6pm Special Intentions
Sat. 8 pm Special Intentions
Sun. 9 am Parishioners
Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):
Sat. 6 pm Dec. 17 Emile Comeau
Sat. 5 pm Dec. 24 Mass of Thanks Giving

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Open wide your door to the

 one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all people. -St. Ambrose

REFLECTION: Embracing the Mysteries of Life:

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

As we begin the Fourth Week of Advent, we focus ever more directly upon the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago. The passage quoted above presents us with the words of the angel of the Lord who spoke to Joseph in a dream. This was one of four dreams that Joseph had in which an angel spoke to him concerning the Christ Child.

Saint Joseph is described in Matthew’s Gospel as “a righteous man” who was unwilling to expose his betrothed wife, Mary, to shame. We know the story well. Mary became pregnant after being betrothed to Joseph but before they lived together, and Joseph didn’t understand how this happened. Mary’s virtue and goodness would have appeared to contradict the possibility of her becoming pregnant when she did. Joseph was planning on doing what he thought was the honorable thing. He decided to divorce her quietly so that she would not endure public shame.

But God’s plan was so much greater than what Joseph could initially comprehend. The Incarnation of the Son of God within the womb of his betrothed required supernatural understanding. And that’s what Joseph was given. Though he had a dream in which an angel spoke to him, a dream was not enough. The dream also needed to be accompanied by the gift of supernatural knowledge. Joseph listened in the dream and believed by the interior revelation of faith that this incredible reality was true. This Child was indeed conceived by the Holy Spirit within the virginal womb of his betrothed, and Joseph accepted his God-given responsibility.

Joseph’s witness is one to ponder and be inspired by. First, it’s essential that we ponder the story as it happened and be inspired by God’s singularly unique plan by which He took on our human nature. But Joseph also provides us with inspiration for our own callings in life. Joseph inspires us to face any and every mystery in life that we encounter with the utmost trust in God. God’s wisdom and ways are always far beyond ours. Very often in life, God will call us to walk an unknown and mysterious path. Life does not always make perfect sense from a

purely rational perspective. Very often, we must allow our human reason to be informed and led by God’s supernatural plan. For each of us, this mysterious path will be different. But if we are to walk by the same faith that Saint Joseph had, then we must always be willing to accept the most sublime mysteries in life and allow God’s revealing Word to clarify them.

Reflect, today, upon any way that you feel challenged by life’s circumstances. What tempts you to doubt, to be confused, or to feel uncertain? What is it that requires supernatural knowledge on your part to embrace? If God the Father chose to bring forth His divine Son in such a mysterious way, then we should not be surprised when God calls us to embrace similar mysteries in life. Walk by faith. Be inspired by Saint Joseph. Say “Yes” to that which God is asking of you. As you do, you will find that you will begin to walk down the most glorious road you can walk. -My Catholic Life

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Anyone wishing to donate



towards Christmas flowers for Our Lady of Lourdes in memory of a loved one may do so at the office or you can put your donation in an envelope with your name and envelope number on it along with “in memory of” written on it and place it in the collection basket.

COLLECTING FOR SHYFT: Thank you to everyone

who generously gave for the homeless. SHYFT House is also in need of our help. SHYFT provides temporary *housing* for up to seven youth (ages 16 - 24) and also residential services. We will be collecting for the next little while for them. There are containers at the back of the church. Here is a list the things they are looking for: Small refillable shampoo bottles, Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, Hair brushes, Lip Balm, Ensure, Reusable Water Bottles, Mirrors, Crayons, Pencil Crayons & Markers, Craft Paint, Activity Books-Crossword Puzzles, Note Books, Towels, Belts, Ankle Socks.

MESSIAH PRODUCTION: There will be a Musique

Royale production of George Frederic Handel’s Messiah on **Wednesday, Dec. 21** at 7 p.m. at Beacon United Church, 25 Beacon Street in Yarmouth. Advance tickets \$25, Students \$10. At

the door \$30. To reserve your seat contact Frances Morris, (902)-742-8895 info@signofthewhaleonline.com or go to the front of the line by purchasing your ticket in advance online at Musique Royale. We will have a separate line for those who have purchased tickets in advance. And if you’ve ever longed to join in the Hallelujah chorus, you are invited to join the ensemble at 6:30 pm for rehearsal and add your voice to the chorus.

FOOD BANK: The weekend, of December 31st &



January 1st 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.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE:



December 24 – St. Ambrose

4:00 pm Children’s Mass
6:00 pm
8:00 pm Carols sung at 7:15pm prior to mass

December 24 – Our Lady of Lourdes

5:00 pm

December 25 – St. Ambrose

9:00 am

December 31 – St. Ambrose

4:00 pm

December 31 – Our Lady of Lourdes

6:00 pm

January 1 – St. Ambrose

9:00 am

11:15 pm



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Ina R. DeViller
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.