



December 21st, 2025 4th Sunday of Advent

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 – December 20th – 28th, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Donald Doucet
Sun. 9am Marilyn, Earl & Stephen Goudey
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Jean & Carrie Cottreau
Wed. 6 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed. 8 pm Special Intentions
Wed. 10pm Parishioners
Thurs. 10 am Special Intentions
Fri. 9 am John Deveau
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Margaret T. Crowell
Sun. 11:15 am Donald Baker

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am December 21 Narcisse & Freda Surette
Wed. 6 pm December 24 Yvonne Surette
Sun. 10 am December 28 Nicholas Clegg

REFLECTION: Saint Joseph, Our Patron and Protector



Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “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.” Joseph knew that the penalty for adultery was death by stoning. His heart must have been deeply conflicted. On one hand, the virtues of his betrothed wife, Mary, were abundantly clear. Mary radiated holiness. Impurity was foreign to her Immaculate Heart. Yet she was pregnant, and Joseph was not the father. What should he do? To protect Mary from public shame, Joseph decided to do what he believed was the most merciful thing—he “decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention...” Though little is known about Joseph, this Gospel passage identifies him as “a righteous man.” Many saints, popes, and Church documents highlight his unquestionable sanctity. He was not immaculate and free from sin as was his wife, but God the Father would have chosen a righteous and holy man to be the foster father of the Son of God. Joseph’s actions reveal his deep faith. As he slept, “the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘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.’” The angel explained to him that Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be born of a virgin and that Joseph was to take Mary and her unborn Son into his home and care for them. When he awoke, he did as the angel commanded. Joseph’s dream was no ordinary dream. The Holy Spirit accompanied the angel and instilled the certitude of faith in Joseph’s mind, empowering his will to obey God’s will. Joseph became the father and guardian of the Savior of the World. On December 8, 1847, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Universal Patron and Protector of the Catholic Church. Just as he protected the Son of God, so he intercedes for us who are members of Christ’s body, the Church. As our Advent season enters its final week, we are reminded of the role that Jesus’ foster father played not only in the life of the Holy Family, but also about the role Saint Joseph continues to play in the life of the Church and in each one of our lives. His intercessory power from Heaven is great, and we should not hesitate to call upon his prayers, especially when we need protection, struggle with fear, or face some grave challenge. Reflect today on your personal devotion to Saint Joseph. Ponder, especially, his deep faith and obedience to the will of God as was communicated to him in a dream. Strive to imitate

that obedience in your own life, never hesitating to undertake the mission God has given you. Turn to Saint Joseph in prayer and know that his powerful intercession will help protect you and win God’s grace in the areas you need it the most.
-My Catholic Life

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 of Milan

COFFEE SOCIALS: There will not be any coffee socials for the Month of December. They will resume the third Saturday and Sunday in January.

CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS:



The office will be closed Wednesday December 24th to Friday December 26th and will be open for Monday December 29th 9:30am to 1:00. The office will also be closed on December 31st and January 1st and reopening for Friday January 2nd 2026 for regular hours of operation.

FOOD BANK: The weekend of January 3rd & 4th is our



turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Members of the Knight of Columbus will be on hand before all the weekend masses to collect non perishable or monetary donations. **Please note for future food bank collections: In days of inclement weather, the collection will take place at the entrance inside the Church.**

FR. HENRY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: Born in a stable in poverty, our Saviour quietly entered our world. God came as an infant, just like each one of us is born. He was born into a very wounded world. With His coming, He scattered the darkness from our lives like no other could to give us newness of life. He comes to us from the heights, from the glory in paradise where He existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit from all eternity, adored and praised by the multitude of the heavenly hosts. He leaves behind the loftiness of heaven to descend among us and become like us. Born to walk among

us as a friend, a brother, a teacher, a companion, a Saviour. Original sin and our own personal sin, led us to a dire situation requiring a Saviour to come rescue us. And so, the Father gave up His very own Son. Rather than abandoning us, He reached out to us out of His love. God who is love never gives up on us. He keeps reaching out to us. A good question to ask ourselves this Christmas season, how do I welcome God's love and how do I share it with others? Christmas is a time to remember what God did. Happy and blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones. -Fr. Henry

NEW HEARING AID SYSTEM AT SAINT

AMBROSE: Do you have trouble hearing because you use a hearing aid at Church? Just recently, I just connected our sound system to an Auracast Transmitter that broadcasts through Bluetooth to connect directly to your hearing aids. It works with certain models from Jabra, Starkey, Resound, Oticon, Beltone and more. Talk to your hearing aid provider and ask them how to connect to an Auracast transmitter. There are also earphones you can buy for \$60 which I can connect for you if you don't have hearing aids. If you would like to try them for mass, let me know. Fr. Henry.

ST. AMBROSE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

December 24 Wednesday (Christmas Eve)

6:00 pm
8:00 pm
10:00 pm Please join us for carols prior to mass.



December 25 Thursday (Christmas Day)

10:00 am
December 31 Wednesday (New Year's Eve)

6:30 pm
January 1 Thursday (New Year's Day)

10:00 am

Please note there is no masses before 6:00 pm as directed by the diocese.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Wednesday December 24th (Christmas eve)

6:00 pm

