



**4th Sunday of Advent
December 21st & 22nd,
2019**

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
Bulletin email: stambrosebulletin1@gmail.com
Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960

Reconciliation/confession is available every Saturday 11 am-noon at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral.

MASS INTENTIONS –December 21-29, 2019

Sat. 4pm Russell & Celeste Rodgerson and Verna & Walter Hazelton
6pm (Melbourne) Anniv. Emile Comeau

Sun. 9am Parishioners
11:15am Jean Cottreau and Narcisse & Freda Surette

Mon. No Mass
Tues. 4pm Special Intentions
7pm Parishioners
8pm (Melbourne) Mary Ellen Saulnier
10pm Special Intentions

Wed. 10am Special Intentions
Thur. 9am No Mass
Fri. 9am No Mass
Sat. 4pm Anniv. Alvin Rodgerson and Anniv. Stanley Bishara Sr.
6pm(Melbourne) Hilda and Erwin Boudreau
Sun. 9am Parishioners
11:15am Anniv. Delby & Louise Saulnier and Ray Bowers

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.

COFFEE SOCIALS: The coffee socials will be held this weekend after all the Masses.

ST. AMBROSE ANNUAL SKATE: will be held on January 3rd from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the Yarmouth Mariner's Centre. It is free skate sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 2181. Everyone is welcome!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Anyone at St. Ambrose or Our Lady of Lourdes wishing to donate towards Christmas flowers 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.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS: The offices will be closed on December 24th to the 26th and reopen for regular hours of the 27th. They will also be closed on December 31st, January 1st and reopen on January 2nd.

NO CATCHESIM CLASSES: There will be no Catechism classes for December 22nd and 29th they will resume again on January 5th 2020. **Children of the Light** youth group will be off from December 16th to the 30th and resume January 6th 2020.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: - Reminder to fill election nomination form and forward to Joline Belliveau before December 30, 2019. The January meeting will be held on the 13th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Executive will meet at 6:30. It will be election night. Please bring stamps, cards and yarn. Juniper House and Shyft were very appreciative for the donations from our December social.

PRO LIFE CALENDARS: The Pro-life cash calendars for 2020 are available. The cost is \$20.00 and this money goes to support prolife activities in the province and it also gives you 16 chances to win \$250.00. If you would like to support this important fundraiser please call Coleen Murphy @ 902-742-4924

NO SCENTS PLEASE: This is a friendly reminder to please refrain from wearing scent products to mass. Many people are very sensitive or allergic to the scents which makes it difficult for them to attend. We appreciate your cooperation on this.

PILGRIMAGE: Apr 30-May 10: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje where Our Lady has been appearing daily for 38 years. Cost of \$2135 (+ \$675 taxes/security/fuel surcharges) includes airfare from the Maritimes, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$200/p.) **INFO:** Hector Caissie at hectorcaissie@hotmail.ca or (506) 857-2295.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: On Christmas Eve, the 10pm Mass will be preceded with Christmas carols led by the senior choir starting at 9:15pm. Please join us.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE:

December 24 – St. Ambrose

4:00 pm Children's Mass
 7:00 pm
 10:00 pm Please join us for carols starting at 9:15.

December 24 – Our Lady of Lourdes

8:00 pm

December 25 – St. Ambrose

10:00 am

December 31 – St. Ambrose

6:30 pm

January 1 – St. Ambrose

10:00 am



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Christmas doesn't rid the world of evil... there will still be sickness, senseless hurt, brokendreams and cold, lonely seasons when love is far away. Christmas doesn't promise heaven on earth... it promises us, here on earth... God's presence in our lives."

-Ronald Rolheiser OMI



REFLECTION: Fourth Sunday of Advent
 "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." Matthew 1:20

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 - My Catholic Life



Merry Christmas and abundant blessings for the coming new year!