



## December 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
**Reconciliation/confession** is held on Wednesday after mass from 7:00-8:00

### MASS INTENTIONS –December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

#### St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

**Sat. 4 pm** Michael Pothier  
**Sun. 10 am** Parishioners  
**Sun. 6 pm** Special Intentions  
**Sun. 8 pm** Special Intentions  
**Sun. 10 pm** Special Intentions  
**Mon. 10 am** Parishioners  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Margaret T. Crowell  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** Mary Ellen & Cheryl Muise  
**Thurs: 9 am** Juliette & Gerald Saulnier  
**Fri. 9 am** Anniv. Stanley Bishara Sr.  
**Sat. 4 pm** Parishioners  
**Sun. 9am** The Associates AMFA  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Mariette Comeau  
**Mon. 10 am** Parishioners

#### Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

**Sat. 4 pm** December 23 Ina DeViller  
**Sun. 6 pm** December 24 Melissa Holly Burke (LeBlanc)  
**Sun. 10 am** December 31 Roland Surette

**REFLECTION:** **Gazing Upon the Mother of God** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a



virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” What an amazing experience this would have been. This humble servant of God, a young girl, was visited by the archangel Gabriel and greeted with the salutation, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” Try to imagine her experience. She was humble beyond comprehension, filled with every heavenly virtue, loved God with all her heart and suddenly came face-to-face with this glorious and most magnificent archangel. And this heavenly visitor showered the deepest of praises upon this lowly servant of the Lord. At first, in her humility, Mary simply pondered this greeting. She pondered it in her heart through prayer and faith. Then the archangel spoke further: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Though Mary inquired further about how this could be, she quickly gave her consent: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” And it was these words of this young woman that continuously echoed in her heart throughout her life. Mother Mary was great for many reasons. She was the Immaculate Conception—the one singularly conceived without sin in the womb of her own mother. She was the one chosen by the Father to bring forth the Savior of the World as her only begotten Son. But her greatness is especially found in her ongoing submission to the will of God. “May it be done to me according to your word.” This is what she said over and over throughout her life. This is her perfect “fiat” to her God. All she knew was surrender and submission to all that God asked of her. And it is this, more than anything else, that made her the worthy Mother of God. Though none of us were immaculately conceived within our mother’s wombs and none of us have remained without sin throughout our lives, we must all strive to be inspired by this holy woman. We must all ponder her deep humility and her willing acceptance of God’s will in her life. And we must all strive to

imitate her fiat and her perfect virtue. Imitation of our Blessed Mother is accomplished by first coming to know her, understand her and love who she is. Gazing upon her interior beauty and holiness presents us with the vision of the perfection to which we are all called. As we prayerfully gaze upon her heart and come to understand her virtues more clearly, we will be inspired to open our own hearts so as to imitate her by the grace of God. This prayerful exercise is one of the best and quickest ways to obtain the heights of holiness to which God has called us. Reflect, today, upon this holy daughter of the Most High. She is not one we can “figure out.” Instead, she is one whom we can come to know through prayer and through God’s inspiration. Ponder her prayerfully. Be open to her inspiration. And allow the Holy Spirit to also overshadow you so that you will more closely be able to imitate her in her holy virtues. – My Catholic Life

**CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS:** The office will be closed Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday December 28<sup>th</sup> and will be open for Friday December 29<sup>th</sup> 9:30am to 1:00. The office will also be closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> and reopening for January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 for regular hours of operation.



**ULTREYA:** The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held January 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR. HENRY:** Henry Newman prayed: “May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like Him, who at this time became a little child for our sake, more simple-minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God”. And he went on to say that Christmas “is a time for innocence, and purity, and gentleness, and mildness, and contentment, and peace”. I think this speaks well about the true meaning of Christmas. As we get older, I think we start looking for a deeper meaning to life. And I think if we allow it to happen, we can find it in a change of thinking in what things like the Christmas season truly means. As we continue onward into the new year, may all darkness in your lives be removed by the

light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ’s birth and may you be people who spread that joy!  
-Fr. Henry

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** O come, Emmanuel, God’s presence among us, our King, our Judge: save us, Lord our God!  
-O Antiphon

### ST. AMBROSE CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE:

#### December 24 St. Ambrose

10:00 am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### December 24 – St. Ambrose

6:00 pm Children’s Mass

8:00 pm

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

#### December 25 Monday – St. Ambrose

10:00 am

#### December 30 & 31 – St. Ambrose

Regular weekend Mass times

#### January 1 Monday – St. Ambrose

10:00 am

**NOTE:** The diocese has requested that we not have mass before 6:00pm on Christmas Eve this year because it is on a Sunday.



### OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

#### Sat December 23rd

4:00 pm

#### Sun December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas eve)

6:00 pm

#### Sun December 31st

10:00 am



Please welcome into our Christian community Bella Louise Balajadia who was baptised on Sunday December 17, 2023.

Please keep Bella and her family in your prayers.