



April 26th, 2026 4th Sunday of Easter

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 – April 26th- May 3rd 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Intentions of the Nuttall and Saeme Families
Sun. 9am Our Lady of Good Counsel
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Anniversary Janice (Surette) Leslie
Wed. 6:30 pm Marion Surette
Thurs. 6:30 pm Special Intentions
Fri. 9 am Special Intentions
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Special Intentions
Sun. 11:15 am Antoinette Belliveau

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am April 26 Arthur Muise
Sun. 10 am May 3 Flossie Jacquard

REFLECTION: The Voice of a Stranger

“When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Young children are often frightened by strangers. Infants, for example, form a strong bond with their mothers who feed them, hold them close, talk to them, and lavish love upon them. It often happens that when other family members, such as grandparents or even the father,

attempt to hold the child, tears emerge until the child is placed once again in the familiar and safe arms of his or her mother. An infant’s reaction to strangers can teach us much about today’s Gospel on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Like an infant, sheep become familiar with the voice and presence of their shepherd. The shepherd lives with the sheep night and day. He calls to them, speaks to them, keeps them safe, and leads them to green pastures and water. If a stranger were to call them, they would not listen, similar to how an infant reacts to a stranger. Jesus’ teaching is in response to the criticism He received from the Pharisees after He healed a man born blind. After healing the man, Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind”. When the Pharisees heard Jesus say that, they inquired whether He was suggesting that they were blind, to which Jesus replied, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains”. An infant’s unfamiliarity with a stranger is instinctive and innocent, yet it teaches us about the deeper spiritual reality Jesus describes. Just as sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd and follow him because they trust in his care, so too does a soul attuned to God respond to His voice. In contrast, the Pharisees, who prided themselves on their religious knowledge, failed to recognize Jesus as the true Shepherd. This failure was not innocent ignorance; it was willful blindness rooted in their rejection of His divine mission. The healed blind man perceived Jesus’ voice with the simplicity of faith, while the Pharisees, claiming to ‘see’ with their own wisdom, remained in sin because they refused to hear and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd. The Pharisees saw Jesus as a stranger to their religious beliefs and practices. They labeled Him an imposter. Unlike the innocent reaction of an infant or the natural response of sheep, the Pharisees’ unfamiliarity with Jesus was a sin stemming from pride. It was a blindness of their own making that closed their hearts to the comforting and supernaturally familiar voice of God. To recognize Jesus’ voice is to respond to the call of grace, trust in His teachings, and follow into the fullness of life He offers. Only by humbly admitting our need for His guidance can we, like the sheep, allow Him to lead us to green pastures and salvation. Reflect today on the fact that God calls out to you day and night. Do you recognize His voice? Or do you, like the Pharisees, turn away from Him? Following the Good Shepherd begins with an intimate familiarity with His divine presence in our lives. We must become as familiar

with Him as an infant is with its mother or as sheep are with their faithful shepherd. Failure to recognize the Good Shepherd’s voice leaves us lost and unable to care for ourselves. Jesus desires to lead us, care for us, and bring us to the abundant pastures of new life. Become familiar with Him and listen to His voice alone, and like the blind man, you will begin to see in ways you never have before, through the eyes of faith. -My Catholic Life

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Community



Breakfast Sunday April 26th at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children 12 and under.

CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP: August 9th - 14th at



Johnston Christian Park, South Range, Digby County. \$225.00 early bird fee by June 30th. After this it will be \$250.00. It’s for youth ages 10 to 14 and you can get a registration form at the Parish office or on the website. **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:** If you are able and would like to make a contribution to help, send a youth to camp, please submit your donation into the collection at Mass (with pertinent information) or stop by the parish office. Please mark that you are sponsoring for summer camp.

CURSILLO: 96th Women’s will be held May 21 to



24, 2026. Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning “short course” in Christianity. It is not a retreat but an encounter with oneself, with Christ and with others. If you, or someone you know might be interested in learning more, please call Agnes Robicheau at 902-746-9881, agnes.robicheau@yahoo.com or if you would like further information about Cursillo contact <https://cursillocanada.org>.

WOMEN’S SPRING RETREAT: Women After God’s

Own Heart: Prayerful, Faithful, Generous, Merciful, Sent. Retreat Leader: Fr. Toochukwu Okafor **Our Third Annual Women’s Retreat** will take place at St. Monica’s Church in Middleton on Friday evening May 15; Saturday, May 16 all day and evening; and Sunday morning May 17, including Holy Mass. Fr. Toochukwu will explore the meaning of our theme for our everyday lives, drawing on the inspiration of women of the Bible and women saints. There will

also be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and opportunities for Sacrament of Confession. Continental breakfasts, lunches (wraps\sandwiches), fruit & vegetable trays, and supper (homemade soup and chili) will be provided. This retreat is sponsored by St. Monica’s Catholic Women’s League. In order to make this spiritual refreshment accessible for all interested women, there is no registration fee. (Free Will offerings are welcomed and appreciated). Wheelchair/walker accessible; ample parking; no scents, please. You are warmly invited to come away for a while to pray with other women and be renewed in faith, hope, and joy!

To register, or for more information about the retreat and local accommodations, please contact: Mary Crooks at 902-825-6495 or mtcrooks@hotmail.com.

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE: Share a cup of

Love- CWL members will be selling teacups filled with a variety of little plants as Mother’s Day gifts on May 9 & 10 - after masses in the Jubilee room for \$10. If you have some plant shoots you wish to donate, please call 902-749-7504 for pickup.



Please welcome into our Christian community - Siyul Park, Sieun Park and Elliana Ebony Marie Miller who were baptised on Sunday November April 19, 2026.

Please keep Siyul, Sieun, Elliana and their families in your prayers.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Liliane Marie Menard, Geraldine Rita Muise & Eugenie “Jennie” Francoise Cottreau Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.