



## March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
**Fr. Henry Email:** frhenrys@gmail.com  
**Hospital Chaplain:** Fr. Wieslaw Papuga  
**Priest on Call:** 902-746-8233 (Emergencies)  
**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 – March 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

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

**Sat. 4 pm** William Letteney  
**Sun. 9am** Parishioners  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Caroline Saulnier Duncan & Steven  
 Saulnier Sr.  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Roderick and Mary Deveau  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** Anniv. Raymond Bowers  
**Thurs: 9 am** Edward and Kay Robicheau  
**Fri. 9 am** Andrew Deveau  
**Sat. 4 pm** Celeste Rodgeron  
**Sun. 9 am** Dorothy Jane Bourque  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Parishioners

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

**Sun. 10 am March 19** Pauline Cottreau  
**Sun. 10 am March 26** Anniv. Robert Doucette

### COMING THIS LENT ... DIVINE MERCY IN THE SECOND GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD:



On the Thursdays of Lent, I (Fr. Henry) will be doing a video series on Divine Mercy. Divine Mercy has been called the second greatest story ever told (the Bible being the greatest). The series is "an amazing visual presentation that will challenge and enthrall

you." It runs for 5 weeks every Thursday evening at 6:30 in the Jubilee Room. Check out the preview on our main webpage. Please come and join me this lent. Sign-up is not required.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** will happen every Friday during Lent at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral at 6:30pm.



Each week, it will be led by a different group.

**REFLECTION: The Holy Drama of Grace** When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith. We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight. The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in

our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story. After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus. The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others. Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World. - My Catholic Life

### THE SAINTS THAT SURROUND US - Our Stained



**Glass Windows** Come join us to hear about the lives of the saints that are portrayed in our windows and what the symbols in their windows represent.

Sunday from 10:15 to 11:00 at the Parish Centre, upstairs from April 2 to April 30.

### KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: 4th degree meeting



Tuesday March 21st 7:00 PM  
**Community Breakfast:** March 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 12:00 cost is \$10.00 Adults and 12 and under \$7.00. Take outs are also available.

### CHURCH CLEANING:



It has been a while since we had a crew of parishioners in to clean the church. You might remember we used to do this once or twice every year. It would be good once again, to give our place of worship an extra good cleaning. Please join us on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am if you are able. Bring a bucket and gloves. Many hands make light work. Fr. Henry

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Anyone wishing to have a copy of the parish financial statement for 2022, it is now available for pick up at the main office.

### EASTER FLOWERS:



Anyone who would like to make a donation towards Easter flowers for **Our Lady of Lourdes Church** in memory of a loved one may do so by either putting your donation in an envelope with your number on it and placing it in the collection basket or at the parish office.

### ULTREYA:



The Yarmouth and Area Ultraya will be held April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Marian Hall at 7pm. Please note the change in date. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

### FISH CHOWDER FRIDAYS:

If you wish to purchase the chowder on the Fridays of Lent, we ask you to call the parish office by Friday morning to reserve your order. The cost is \$6.00 and it may be picked up at the Marian Hall doors between 4:00 and 5:00. Proceeds go toward youth who will be attending the Steubenville Atlantic.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:



The Son of Man came for sinners, and we are bound to seek their conversion. -St. John of God

### OFFICE CLOSED:



The office will be closed for Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> for staff time off. It will reopen on Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> for usual hours of operation.