



March 10th, 2024 4th Sunday of Lent

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Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – March 9th – 17th, 2024

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm The Doucette Family
Sun. 9am Codie Saulnier
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Stanley Surette
Wed. 6 pm Betty Surette
Thurs: 9 am Bruce Joseph Doucette
Fri. 9 am Sandy Fevens
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Anniv. Richard Bradshaw
Sun. 11:15 am Wallace DeViller

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am March 10 Ray Bowers
Sun. 10 am March 17 Intentions of Gert Doucette

REFLECTION: Seeking the Full Truth

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” The line quoted above concludes a dialogue that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. This is the first of three times Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospel of

John. The second time he appears is when he reminds the other members of the Sanhedrin that a man must be first heard before he is condemned. The third time was when Jesus was killed and Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare Jesus’ body for burial. Jesus was not accepted by most of the Pharisees and within the Sanhedrin. For that reason, Nicodemus was taking a risk by going to him at night to talk. But Jesus clearly senses faith in the heart of Nicodemus, which is why when Nicodemus asks Jesus about His teaching, Jesus answers him. Unlike the other Pharisees, Nicodemus was not trying to trap our Lord; he sincerely wanted to understand. At the beginning of this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, Nicodemus professes the beginning of faith in Jesus when he says, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him. Interestingly, Jesus then speaks to Nicodemus in figures of speech, saying that one can only enter the Kingdom of God when they are “born from above” and “born from water and the Spirit.” Nicodemus tries to understand but fails. Jesus then gently rebukes him by saying, “You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?”. Jesus then goes on to speak further in symbolic language and figures of speech, concluding with the beginning of today’s Gospel quoted above when He speaks in a veiled way about His coming crucifixion. One thing that is important to understand from this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is that Jesus’ language is veiled in symbolic language because, even though Nicodemus was on the right path, he was not yet ready for the full revelation of the Gospel. He could not yet fully comprehend all that our Lord came to reveal. Thus, Jesus spoke in veiled language and invited Nicodemus to keep seeking its hidden meaning. In our own lives, we can come to God and want Him to speak clearly and definitively to us, revealing His perfect will for our lives. But often He doesn’t. Why? Because God knows we are not yet ready for the full truth. When He speaks to us and when we gain insight in one way or another, this is good and reveals we are on the right path. But the Gospel, in its fullness, is so radical and so demanding that most people are not yet ready for the full truth. Therefore, in His compassion, God gives us only what we can handle

at the moment. But this humble truth should encourage us, as it did Nicodemus, to not give up and to continue opening ourselves to the fullness of the Word of God. Reflect, today, upon how open you are to the fullness of God’s Word. What would happen if God were to reveal to you, by an immediate personal revelation of divine knowledge, all that was in His sacred mind? Would it be too much for you to handle? Yes, it would be. But that humble admission is an important step toward that very goal. Humble yourself, today, more fully before the mysterious Word of God and pray that you will continue to be changed and open so that the clarity of God’s truth will more fully penetrate your soul. *My teaching Lord, Your sacred Truth is so deep, so profound and so transforming that it remains too much for me to fully comprehend and embrace. For that reason, I thank You for the mercy of speaking to me in veiled ways so as to continually draw me deeper in my faith and knowledge of You. Please continue to open my mind and heart to You so that, one day, I will understand Your Truth most fully. Jesus, I trust in You. -My Catholic Life*

FISH CHOWDER FRIDAYS:

We will be offering take out fish chowder on the Fridays of Lent. If you wish to purchase the chowder, we ask you to call the parish office to place your order. The cost is \$7.00 and it may be picked up at the Marian Hall doors between 4:00 and 5:00.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:

Tuesday March 12th, all members invited 5:30pm executive meeting, 6:30 supper and 7:30pm general meeting. **4th Degree Meeting** will be on March 19th at 7:00 pm. **Community Breakfast** Sunday March 24th 9:00 to 12:00 cost is \$10.00 Adults and 12 and under \$7.00. Take out is available.

COOFFEE SOCIAL AND PANCAKE & SAUSAGE

SOCIALS: The Coffee social will be held after the 4pm mass on March 16th as usual. The Pancake & Sausage socials will be held following the 9am & 11:15 masses on March 17th. As a result of bad weather, we cancelled the Shrove Tuesday supper but we had already bought the supplies so, we decided that it would be

rescheduled in place of the two coffee socials. There is no charge to attend however if you wish to give a donation there will be a free will offering box available with all the proceeds going to the youth who will be attending the Steubenville Atlantic conference this summer.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Always give good heed to the Word of God, whether you hear or read it in private, or hearken to it when publicly preached. Listen with attention and reverence, seek to profit by it, and do not let the precious words fall unheeded but receive them into your heart. -St. Francis de Sales

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.

SERIES ON DEATH AND DYING:

If you missed part or all of the recent series on *Suffering and End of Life* done on Thursday night by me (Fr. Henry), go to our main page on our website to watch it.

SERIES CALLED FEARLESS:

Time and again, the people of God are called to ‘be courageous’ and ‘be not afraid.’ Yet, we live in a time where fear seems to guide our very existence. The next two weeks, I will be showing the series called Fearless in the Jubilee Room. Please join me (Fr. Henry) Thursday evening at 6:30 on March 14th and March 21st if you are interested.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

will be held on the Fridays of Lent at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral at 6:30pm. Each week will be led by a different group. The Good Friday performance will be led by the Confirmation Class.

CHRISM MASS:

The Chrism Mass will be held at Saint Mary’s Cathedral Basilica in Halifax on Tuesday March 26th at 12:00pm. The St. Ambrose office will be closed on that Tuesday, the staff will be in attendance.