



March 26th, 2023 5th Sunday of Lent

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
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
 after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – March 25th – April 2nd 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Celeste Rodgerson
Sun. 9am Dorothy Jane Bourque
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Sandy Fevens
Wed. 6:30 pm Associètes AFMA
Thurs: 9 am Gloria Mauro
Fri. 9 am Anniv. Randy Patten
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9 am Rose Deveau
Sun. 11:15 am Robert & Elizabeth Trefry

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am March 26 Anniv. Robert Doucette
Sun. 10 am April 2 Michael & Velma Doucette

REFLECTION: Total Freedom from Sin “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So, Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

The death of Lazarus can be seen as a symbolic representation of the soul that has died from mortal sin. This is similar to the fact that leprosy, physical ailments and the like are also symbols of sin. For that reason, Jesus’ initial reactions reveal how we

should respond to serious sin in our lives. When Jesus faced the death of Lazarus, “he became perturbed and deeply troubled,” “Jesus wept,” He became “perturbed again” and He “cried out in a loud voice.” Though Jesus was God, He freely chose to assume human nature and to experience human emotions and passions to teach us how we should react. In this case, He chose to become perturbed, deeply troubled, to weep and to cry out to show us how we should react to grave sin. Grave sin kills the spirit. As a result, we must be deeply affected if we commit or witness a grave sin.

One lesson we can take from this passage is that when you or a loved one falls into grave sin, it must not be ignored. Final impenitence is a sin by which a person fails to have appropriate remorse for sin and reacts to it in a dismissive and casual manner. This cannot be our reaction. Begin by considering the great value of taking sin seriously, reacting to it with passion and emotion, and crying out to God for forgiveness. When Jesus cried out, commanding Lazarus to come out of the tomb, the details were added that Lazarus did come forth but was still bound “hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.” Saint Augustine teaches that, in part, this symbolizes the entire process of confession and the forgiveness of sins. First, no person is capable of confessing their sins by their own effort. It must be that they are moved by grace and the command of our Lord to come forth to show themselves in their bound state to God. Lazarus’ obedience to Jesus’ command symbolizes the Christian’s response to God when called to repentance. When our Lord says, “Untie him and let him go,” this symbolizes the unmerited effect of the Sacrament of Confession and the power it has to release a person not only from their sins but also from the ongoing effects of those sins.

Our Church teaches that sin has a double consequence. First, it keeps us from eternal salvation. This effect is remedied through Confession and forgiveness. However, there is a second effect called “temporal punishment” (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1471–1473). This “punishment” is not from God, but from sin. It means that when we sin, even in a less serious way, we become attached to that sin and that the ongoing temptation to return to it is strengthened. Thus, ongoing conversion also means we hear our

Lord say, “Untie him and let him go.” This is especially accomplished by ongoing conversion and growth in virtue.

Reflect, today, upon the rich symbolism found in the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. As you do, listen for the passionate voice of Jesus who calls to you, “Come out!” What sin is Jesus calling you to be free from? Identify that sin and repent of it with the same passion that our Lord exhibits. From there, consider any ongoing temptation you struggle with and any attachment you still have toward a particular sin. Jesus desires that you be completely unbound and set free. Be open to that grace and do all you can to accept it.

- My Catholic Life

OREMUS: A Guide to Catholic Prayer In this 8-week video-based study program, Fr. Mark Toups teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Come and discover how God speaks to you, even in the smallest encounters. Following the Tradition of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn how to express yourself to God in prayer, and how to hear God’s voice.

Thursday evenings 7 to 8:30 beginning April 13th, 2023 in the Jubilee Room and repeating on Friday mornings 10 to 11:30 beginning April 14th, 2023 in the parish centre.

EASTER FLOWERS: Donations 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 placed in the collection or at the parish office.



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.



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



KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Community Breakfast: March 26th 9:00 to 12:00 cost is \$10.00 Adults and 12 and under \$7.00. Take outs are also available.



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. We will Also be having a **Good Friday Seafood/Fish chowder** eat in or take out for \$8.00/\$6.00 per serving in the Parish Centre dining hall. Tickets will be sold prior to and can be purchased from the office or can be purchased at the door while supplies last.

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.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one’s flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble... and kindles the true light of chastity. -St. Augustine



THANK YOU: to all the people who came to help with the pre-Easter church cleaning. It was greatly appreciated and a job well done!



Please welcome into our Christian community - Evie-Joyce Manka Numfor who was baptised on Saturday March 18th, 2023.

Please keep Evie-Joyce and her family in your prayers.