

Ascension of the Lord Bulletin for St. Ambrose Parish

May 24th, 2020



Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars

Parish Deacon: Rev. Mr. Stephen Bourque

Fr. Henry email: frhenrys@gmail.com

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 Please email Fr. Henry if you can or call the office to make an appointment.

Office telephone: 902-742-7151

THANK YOU: I wanted to thank everyone for the well wishes for my 10th anniversary as a priest. Its been a busy 10 years which has made the time fly by for me. As a priest, you meet people in many different places in their lives. At birth, you find the joy of new life with baptism. Then you have the sick and dying and the grief that comes from loss that you try and help people deal with. And you meet them in many different places in between these two moments. I have been privileged to journey with many of you over these past years and I pray that journey might continue for some time to come. May God bless each and every one of you and I thank Him for allowing me to be a part of your lives. - Fr. Henry

LIVE MASS WITH FR. HENRY: I (Fr. Henry) do a live mass every Wednesday and Sunday at 9:00 am (unless there are technical difficulties and then it will be put on after it has been recorded.). The next live mass is this Sunday, streamed live from St. Ambrose Church. If you want to watch, go to our web site at www.stambroseymarmouth.ca or go to my YouTube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UC1CwQV-c8xpu57fbCsu0fLg/videos?view=57&flow=grid (Copy and paste this link into your web browser if you would like to follow along.)

Wondering what to do with your time while being isolated? Want to get connected with other people from our parish? Why not join an online group?



There is a 14-session series on the Holy Spirit that people can get involved in at St. Ambrose. The goal would be to finish by Pentecost which as you know is 50 days from Easter Sunday. How it works is you watch the video just before your group meets online, then the 4 or 5 of you will join in for a meeting together with questions you can discuss together. There can also be some sharing time about how things are going. Click on the link to watch an ad for the series.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EyhpK-X-onM&list=PLE6t-PqUvPEemaneqIWYbKUn4j8olfe9h

If you want to be a part of a group, please email us Stambrosemail@gmail.com

-Fr. Henry



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: We always find that those who walked closest to Christ were those who had to bear the greatest trials.

-St. Teresa of Avila

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH FINANCIALLY: During this difficult time, I ask that you continue to support our Parish financially. If you want you can drop donations off at the office during office hours. Please knock on the door to be served. We now have **EMAIL TRANSFERS SET UP**, send to stambrosemail@gmail.com please add your envelope number in the message box if you have one or a mailing address for an income tax receipt. We still have an account on line to which you can donate to. Simply go to <http://www.stambroseyarmouth.ca/> and scroll down the page to the donate button in red and follow the directions.

REFLECTION: *The Ascension of the Lord Ecce Homo...in all His glory:*

The heart-piercing flash of time when the wife's eyes lock with her husband's as she steps into the lifeboat, but he stays on board the listing ship. The wailing and crying as mothers and children are ripped apart on the platform at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The well-loved cousin who leaves his far-flung relatives' home after a visit, everyone knowing he will never pass that way again. The emotional farewell. The final, bittersweet call. The last hug and tender kiss on the teary cheek. History, literature, and everyday reality are thick with dramatic goodbyes.

Departures can be painful, none more than the mysterious finality of a soul's departure from this life. For those without faith, confusion deepens the pain. Without God there is, after life, just the void. The real absence. Emptiness, chaos, and guesswork about what frightening reality awaits behind the curtain. Today's Feast of the Ascension is a peek behind that curtain and what the believer sees is life, fulfillment, and hope. In the Ascension, we have a preview of coming attractions and much, much more. Forty days after His Resurrection from the dead, the disciples witness the Lord go away. But they are not sad. Saint Luke relates that the disciples were full of joy upon returning to Jerusalem after witnessing Jesus' Ascension on the Mount of Olives. Jesus had gone away but had not died. He had departed but was fully alive. Christ showed that there was an alternative path, a different way to "do" leaving time and space.

Most memory is happy memory. We naturally forget what causes us pain and embarrassment and more easily retain what brings smiles and light. Our Catholic religion serves us well when it remembers truths on our behalf. The Church tells us year in and year out where we came from—God. It reads to us at Mass the stories of our salvation. It reminds us that death and suffering are painful but not the end. And in the Ascension the Church preserves the very positive memory of man's greatness. The Ascension reinforces our dignity. It is a shot of vitamin B right into the spine. We stand taller and straighter when we know that we are meant to live forever in the Father's house in heaven.

Many modern biologists point to a pile of wet clay and say, "Look, here is man." Modern visual artists often show bloody, suffering, degraded man and say, "Look, here is man." Sensualists sell the unclothed body to the lustful and say, "Look, here is man." Pontius Pilate stood the broken and bloody body of Jesus before the rabble and said the same, "Ecce Homo." Today the Church asks its believers to gaze up at the Ascension and to say, "Here is man too. Here is the body restored, in all of man's resplendent power." It is not enough for us to guess about our origins. We must reflect upon our destination. Where we are going says more about us than where we came from. Man is not a small pile of dirt. He is not his broken jaw, his foreclosed home, his failed marriage, or his carnal desires. He is these things, but he is more. Man is great because God is great. At Mass the priest says, "Lift up your hearts," and the people respond, "We lift them up to the Lord." Indeed. Today we marvel at the spectacle of the God-Man Jesus Christ ascending to heaven and to home. From that high place, and only from there, can we properly gauge our dignity. The Ascension should not invite speculation about the number of rooms in the Father's mansion, or how exactly the Lord zoomed up into the clouds. The Ascension is about what comes next. It's about our dignity. It teaches us that self importance is nothing. It is union with God that makes us great and makes us happy.

Lord Jesus, You were from Mary biologically but from the Father theologically. On this Feast of the Ascension, You return to the Father's house. Help all who believe in You and who belong to You in the Church to one day join You in that heavenly home forever and ever.

-My Catholic Life