



## Baptism of The Lord January 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
**Hospital Chaplain:** Fr. Wieslaw Papuga 902-746-8233  
**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** is available by appointment only at this time please call the office or email Fr. Henry directly for an appointment.

### MASS INTENTIONS--January 9<sup>th</sup>– 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Sat. Jan. 9 4pm Parishioners**  
**Jan. 10 9am Stanley Muise and Harold Doucette**  
**Sun. Jan.10 10am (Melbourne) Anniv. Audrey Muise**  
**Jan.10 11am William Murphy and Florence Murphy**  
**Wed. Jan. 13 9am Intentions Sheila Deon & Family and Intentions Kerry & Carol Bourque**  
**Sat. Jan. 16 4pm Bernadette Deveau and Chris Latter**  
**Sun. Jan. 17 9am Residents of Mountainview Manor and Dorothy Cook**  
**Jan. 17 10am (Melbourne) NO MASS**  
**Jan. 17 11am Parishioners**

Please note we will not be carrying the gifts for the offertory until further notice.

*Please note:* The weekday Mass will be cancelled in the event of a funeral Mass. The Mass intention scheduled for that day will be offered at a later date.

**LIVE STREAM MASS AT ST. AMBROSE:** We live stream mass every Wednesday at 9:00 am and on the weekend at the Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am or 11:00 am mass on a rotating basis. The next scheduled mass is always posted on our website's main page. If you want to watch, go to our web site at [www.stambroseymouth.ca](http://www.stambroseymouth.ca) or go to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57](http://www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57)

**EMAIL TRANSFERS:** are available. Please send to [stambrosemail@gmail.com](mailto:stambrosemail@gmail.com) Please add your envelope number or personal information for income tax purposes.

### NEW HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN:



One of the duties I (Fr. Henry) had for the past few years was the hospital phone which was used for emergencies or when someone was in need of the Sacrament of the Sick. This duty has now been given by the diocese to Père Wieslaw Papuga. You may have seen him at mass the last few months. Welcome Father to our Parish. In case of emergency or when you need someone for Sacrament of the Sick, you can call this number 902-746-8233.

**FAKE EMAIL TO FR. HENRY:** Once again, someone is trying to contact people on my behalf with a fake email saying, "I need a favor from you, email me as soon as you get this message." Please do not answer these and do not send money because you think it is me. I would contact you in person if there is a need. Fr. Henry

### WHAT NAME DO YOU PUT ON YOUR DONATION CHECK?



The question was asked recently about what name should we put on the check for donations. All checks for the parish whether you are at mass at Our Lady of Lourdes or St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral or a donation for Tabitha Centre, should have on them **St. Ambrose Parish**. This money goes into the one account but is kept track of separately for each of the churches and Tabitha Centre.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:



All blessings come to us through our Lord. He will teach us, for in beholding his life we find that he is the best example. ~St. Terese of Avila

### REFLECTION: *The Baptism of the Lord:*



It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon

him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes for us the Christmas Season and transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus' life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. As we commemorate this glorious event, it's important to ponder a simple question: Why was Jesus baptized? Recall that John's baptism was one of repentance, an act by which he invited his followers to turn from sin and to turn to God. But Jesus was sinless, so what was the reason for His Baptism? First of all, we see in the quoted passage above that Jesus' true identity was made manifest through His humble act of baptism. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," spoke the voice of the Father in Heaven. Furthermore, we are told that the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Thus, Jesus' baptism is in part a public declaration of Who He is. He is the Son of God, a divine Person Who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This public testimony is an "epiphany," a manifestation of His true identity for all to see as He prepares to begin His public ministry. Second, by His baptism, Jesus' incredible humility is made manifest. He is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, but He allows Himself to become identified with sinners. By sharing in an act that was focused upon repentance, Jesus speaks volumes through His action of baptism. He came to unite Himself with us sinners, to enter our sin and to enter into our death. By entering the water, He symbolically enters into death itself, which is the result of our sin, and rises triumphantly, allowing us to also rise with Him to new life. For this reason, Jesus' baptism was a way of Him "baptizing" the waters, so to speak, so that water itself, from that moment onward, would be endowed with His divine presence and could be communicated to all who are baptized after Him. Therefore, sinful humanity is now able to meet divinity through baptism. Lastly, when we share in this new baptism, through water that has now been sanctified by our divine Lord, we see in Jesus' baptism a revelation of who we become in Him. Just as the Father spoke and declared Him as His Son, and just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, so also in our baptism we become the adopted

children of the Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus' baptism gives clarity as to whom we become in Christian baptism. ~My Catholic Life

### A NOTE OF THANKS FROM ARCHBISHOP DUNN:

Please share this note from Archbishop Dunn with all those at your parish who contributed to making your Christmas liturgies prayerful and joyful celebrations.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my Christmas greeting to the faithful of this Archdiocese, I wrote that, due to Covid-19, we were experiencing many uncertainties and anxieties, resulting in a widespread sense of helplessness and hopelessness. The message we needed to hear was that Jesus is still with us even during this pandemic and that God is with us in the uncertainty and anxiety of this pandemic.

Our plans during December for the liturgical gatherings were very uncertain, as we experienced a spike in cases. However, we continued on, and we did come together, either in person or via electronic means, to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But these gatherings did not just happen. It took the dedication of many volunteers: those who contacted and registered the attendees to the masses; those who cleaned and decorated the churches; those who prepared and participated in the liturgies; those who looked after the technical parts and pieces; those who welcomed the faithful and ensured that the protocols were followed.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all these individuals who volunteered their time and talents to ensure not only a wonderful celebration of the Nativity, but one where all felt safe and secure. Thank you.

May God, the source and origin of all blessing, grant you grace, pour out his blessing in abundance and keep you safe from harm throughout the year. ~ Archbishop, Dunn