



## April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 EASTER!

**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 –April 8<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

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

**Sat. 8 pm** Easter Vigil Special Intentions  
**Sun. 9am** Parishioners  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Special Intentions  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Anniv. Donald J Surette  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** Lorraine & Edwin Harding  
**Thurs: 9 am** Eugénie Doucet  
**Fri. 9 am** Edgar Amirault  
**Sat. 4 pm** Lorna Burnham  
**Sun. 9 am** Alan Thibeau  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Parishioners

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

**Sat. 8 pm** April 8 Mass of Thanksgiving  
**Sat. 6 pm** April 15 Wayne Doucette

**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.

**REFLECTION: Resurrection of the Lord Alleluia!** He is Risen! Saying those words is like drinking a tall glass of cold water after being out in the desert all day. Lent is over. It is time to celebrate the great joy of Easter! At the Easter Vigil, the *Exsultet* is sung as Mass begins in darkness, illuminated only by candles throughout the church. The *Exsultet* is a beautiful hymn of rejoicing in Christ's triumph over sin and death. One-part states: O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned for us so great, so glorious a Redeemer! This line stands out because it calls the sin of Adam "necessary" and refers to it as "O happy fault." At first, this might seem strange. Why is it that we refer to the sin of Adam, Original Sin, as "necessary" and "happy?" The answer is Easter. It's because God, in His perfect wisdom and love, took sin and the consequence of sin (death) and used them as the means of the salvation of the world. That's what Easter is all about! This might be hard to comprehend, so it's worth thinking about more deeply. Without Adam's sin, there would be no Jesus. God would not have had to become one of us. So even though the original sin of Adam, as well as all future sin, is evil and wrong, God in His perfect power and love chose to use all sin as the very means of the salvation of the world. How? By allowing the sins of the world to persecute Him and crucify Him, and then, by turning that suffering and death into the very means of salvation. Jesus destroyed sin by destroying the consequence of sin, which is death. Death loses in the Resurrection! Jesus' Resurrection takes away the effects of all sin for those who cling to Him. Easter is a time when we must do just that. We must "cling" to our resurrected Lord! We must cling to Jesus who is alive and well. We must cling to His Resurrection and strive to share in it. How do we cling to our Resurrected Lord? There are many ways. Here is one. Take joy in everything. Start with whatever it is that burdens you the most—whatever it is that makes you angry, sad, or depressed. Whatever that is, it can become your greatest source of grace and joy. Seriously, it can. If the brutal Crucifixion of Jesus, the Son of God, can turn out to be the

greatest event in all of human history, then your personal suffering, your burden, or even your sin can very much become a source of great joy, as long as you let God transform it into part of His Resurrection! This is the meaning of Easter! Easter means that nothing can keep us from the joy that God wants to give us. Nothing can steal that joy away. Sure, at times we will struggle just as Jesus did in the Agony of the Garden and the *Via Dolorosa* (the Way of the Cross), but those sufferings will not win. The Resurrection won with Christ, and it will win with us when we cling to Him. Jesus persevered and, in the end, rose victorious. This is Easter! Know that God wants you to experience the joy of Easter in your life. Let Him fill you with hope and with the joy that only the Resurrection can bring. God wants Easter to begin now in our lives! Happy Easter! – My Catholic Life

### **EASTER MESSAGE FROM FATHER HENRY: The Lord**



**has risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!** For me, Holy Week has always been a powerful time. Celebrating Holy Thursday, we see the example of service Jesus gave his people to follow in the washing of the feet. On Holy Thursday we also find the institution of the Eucharist, the source of life for us Catholics. Then we enter into the passion with our Lord on Good Friday. Finally, at the Easter Vigil, we experience resurrection. Good Friday is very relatable to our own lives because of the difficulties we often experience. We can even feel like we're stuck in Good Friday ... that life is a never-ending struggle. But in what we see Jesus go through, we find hope, because like Him we too can experience resurrection. My prayer is that you feel this resurrection in whatever struggle you might be experiencing. May God be with you and may you open up your hearts and allow Him to enter into your life more deeply in this Easter season. Fr. Henry

### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** Sunday April 16th is



Divine Mercy Sunday. Starting at 1:00 pm in the Jubilee Room, I will be showing a video called **Love and Mercy: Faustina**. It's about Saint Faustina and her experiences with Jesus. It "includes previously unknown facts and recently disclosed documents that shed new light on the

Divine Mercy message and devotion." It is 120 minutes in length, so right after the video, we will be going upstairs to the church to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet. If you don't wish to watch the video, you can still come to pray with us at 3:00 pm. Fr. Henry

### **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: Monthly Meeting:**



Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup>, all members invited  
 6:00pm executive meeting  
 7:00pm general meeting **4<sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting:** Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All members welcome. **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.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** The office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday We will reopen Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Have a Blessed Easter!

**COFFEE SOCIALS:** Please note the coffee socials are being held after the 4pm & 9am masses the weekend of April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for a cup. There will be a potluck being held April 16<sup>th</sup> following the 11:15 am mass in the parish centre. Please bring a dish to share!

**THANK YOU:** to all the people who came to help with the pre-Easter church cleaning at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. It was greatly appreciated and a job well done!

**QUILTING:** Are you looking to have a quilt hand quilted? Contact Carolyn Pike at 902-742-7470 or 902-749-7504. The ladies quilt at the parish centre on Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons. Come visit them.