

Easter Sunday Bulletin for St. Ambrose Parish

April 12th, 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 call the office to make an appointment.

Office telephone: 902-742-7151

Fr Henry's Easter Message:

Hello everyone,

I realize some of you who are not "connected" will not receive this message. We are in different times. For the first time in my ten years as a priest, I won't be celebrating Holy Week which is the high point of all the liturgies we celebrate. I am not doing Good Friday or Holy Saturday, but will be watching our bishops as they celebrate these events. It is a sad time for our world and also for our Church. And yet in the extra silence we have been experiencing, I do feel God is speaking which has been a blessing. Easter is all about the Resurrection. Jesus died on the cross and rose so we could rise with Him when we also die like Him. As we enter into Easter season for the fifty days after Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday, may we experience the risen Christ more deeply in our hearts. May we focus on Him who is the real answer to all our prayers. May God bless you all and keep you all safe. You are in my prayers,

Fr. Henry

Mass live with Fr. Henry on Easter Sunday at 9:00 am copy and paste this link into your web browser if you would like to follow along www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJPVzWhFhGs

Let's celebrate Holy Week together.

Archbishop Mancini and Archbishop Dunn invite you to join them digitally to celebrate these holy days.

This is a Holy Week like no other.

Over the past few weeks, it has been fantastic to witness the great efforts of our priests, parishes, and parish leaders to keep in touch with the faithful and find ways to pray together. Even Archbishop Mancini and Archbishop Dunn have celebrated live streamed Masses with you!

And so, our Archbishops invite you to gather with our diocesan family to celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week by live stream. The liturgies for these holiest of days will be celebrated in an empty Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica with only a handful of people providing the necessary ministries while respecting the need to social distance.

You can "tune in" via <https://livestream.com/halifaxarmouth/holyweek>

The schedule for our liturgies is:

- April 9: Holy Thursday at 7:00pm
- April 10: Good Friday at 3:00pm
- April 11: Holy Saturday at 8:00pm
- April 12: Easter Sunday Mass at 11:00am

We are delighted to share that our friends at Eastlink TV will broadcast these liturgies **live!** You'll find the celebrations on Community TV channel 10 and channel 610. These will air in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The Good Friday Service and Holy Saturday Liturgy will also air live in PEI.

Please pass the word along to those who may not have internet that the masses will be on Eastlink TV.
We look forward to praying with you!

Holy Week at Home for adults

<https://rcspirituality.org/holy-week-2020/>

Holy Week at Home for families

<https://holyweek.pastoral.center>

<https://www.growingupcatholic.com>

Weekly liturgies for families - this week is, of course, Holy Week at Home. Changes each week. Same company as above.

<https://aleteia.org/2020/04/06/how-to-make-holy-week-special-at-home/>

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 an account on line to which you can donate to. Simply go to <http://www.stambrosearmouth.ca/> and scroll down the page to the donate button in red and follow the directions.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: If you remain constant in your faith in the face of trial, the Lord will give you peace and rest for a time in this world, and forever in the next. -St. Jerome Emiliani



OUTREACH TO PARISHIONERS: You may have recently had a phone call on behalf of Fr. Henry wondering how people are doing and that he was praying for you at this difficult time. Many numbers have been disconnected or no longer in service. Those of you who have not received a call would you please give the office a call so that information can be updated in our system. Office 902-742-7151

REFLECTION: THE LORD HAS RISEN! ALLELUIA! And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. What an experience that must have been! Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb early in the morning to pay tribute to our Lord’s sacred body. They brought the oils and perfumes that they planned on placing on his beaten and bruised body. They came to offer Him their last act of love. But as the women arrived, the earth quaked and the angel of God appeared to them.

As they left, Scripture says they then left the tomb quickly, “fearful yet overjoyed.” All they could think about was telling the other disciples of their encounter when another incredible joy befell them. Jesus Himself met them on the way. In their amazement, the women fell at His feet and did Him homage. Not the homage they planned on doing to a dead body, but the homage due to a risen Savior. They worshipped Him. Jesus then spoke: “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me” ([Mt 28:10](#)).

It was true. All they had hoped for came true. They saw Jesus arrested. They saw Him beaten. They saw Him falsely accused. They saw Him sentenced to death. And they saw Him die. Now for the miracle of miracles, they saw their Savior alive. Every hope that they had came true. Everything came to fruition in that moment. All that was lost was restored a hundredfold.

The Resurrection of Christ is not simply an event that took place long ago. It’s an event that continues to take place when we patiently walk with our Lord through the trials, crosses and sufferings of life, with hope and trust in His power to do all good things. Evil always loses in the end when we remain steadfast in our hope in Him.

As we celebrate the reality of the Resurrection of Christ, ponder the promise He has spoken to you. If you have surrendered all to Him and died to the world of sin, keep your eyes now on the Resurrection. Have hope in Him and in His power to breathe new life into your heaviest cross.

Sometimes we have hope in our own ideas of the Resurrection. We ask for some hope to come true because we think it is what we need. But the Resurrection of Christ should teach us that His plan for new life for each one of us is far superior than what we could ever imagine. Do you believe that? Do you maintain your hope in Christ even when all seems lost?

Reflect, today, upon the unfathomable plan that God has for your life. Know that if you remain faithful until the end, our Lord will bring forth greater joys in your life than you could ever think possible. It may not happen according to your schedule or your wishes, but it will happen in accord with His perfect divine will. Do not doubt. Do not be afraid. Have hope and trust, and anticipate the moments when the power of the Resurrection brings forth the greatest joys you could ever imagine.

My Resurrected Lord, I trust You with all my mind, heart, soul and strength. I believe that You are faithful to perfection and that Your fidelity will never fail. Give me hope when I need it the most and help me to keep my eyes on the glory that awaits. You have conquered all evil. May I always trust in You!

_ My Catholic Life