



January 4, 2026 The Epiphany of the Lord

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Confession/Adoration Wednesday 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – January 3rd to 11th, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Intentions of Deacon Bruce Hubbard
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Bob LeFave
Tues. 6:30 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed. 6:30 pm Joan Harding
Thurs. 9 am Rita Durkee
Fri. 9 am Special Intentions
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Heidi Lyn Surette
Sun. 9am Delby & Louise Saulnier
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am January 4 Anniv. Audrey Muişe
Sun. 10 am Phyllis Doucette

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE GIFTS in the offertory procession at a weekend Mass (if you are a family member of the person the Mass is for) please see the greeters **at least 20 minutes before Mass begins.**

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.

REFLECTION: The Star of Bethlehem



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,

saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. [Matthew 2:1–3](#) Why did God use a star to reveal the birth of the King of Kings to foreigners from the East? To Mary, Joseph, and even the shepherds, God sent an angel to announce the Good News. But to the Magi, He chose to use a medium they understood—a star. The Magi, originally a priestly caste from Persia, were skilled in astrology, astronomy, dream interpretation, and other forms of wisdom and divination. The three Magi mentioned in Matthew’s Gospel were clearly experts in astrology, carefully studying the night sky. On the night of Christ’s birth, they made an extraordinary discovery: a new star had appeared in the sky. They knew it was a sign of great significance. According to their beliefs, the appearance of a new star heralded the birth of a new king. This star was not just a celestial phenomenon; it symbolized the light of Christ breaking into the world, guiding all nations—Jew and Gentile alike—toward the Savior. Just as God drew humble Jewish shepherds to the newborn King, He also drew representatives of the Gentiles to adore Him, for Jesus came to save all of humanity. The divine initiative to include the Gentiles was not a new concept but a fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham: “All the families of the earth will find blessing in you” ([Genesis 12:3](#)). The prophets and Psalms echo this theme, emphasizing that all nations will come to the Lord (see [Isaiah 2:2-4](#); Psalm 67). In Jesus’ public ministry, we see His outreach to the Gentiles, a mission that continued in the early Church, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. At the time of Jesus’ birth, however, the Jewish emphasis was primarily on being the chosen people. The story of the Epiphany reveals God’s universal call to holiness from the very beginning of Jesus’ life, establishing that His mission was for all people, not just for Israel. Because of this universal call to holiness, we who believe in Christ and live our Catholic faith must avoid becoming isolated or insular, creating a small, self-contained world. Instead, we are called to live our faith in a way that is welcoming to all and engaged with the broader world, reflecting the universal mission of the Church. Being Catholic is not merely a cultural

heritage; it is the spiritual means of eternal salvation that everyone needs. The word “epiphany” means “manifestation,” and Christ must be made manifest to all, becoming the King of every soul. As we celebrate the Epiphany, be open to the ways God might want to use you to share the light of faith with those who are not yet faithful Catholics. We must be like the star of Bethlehem, drawing others to Christ in ways they can understand and accept. This is best accomplished when we place ourselves at God’s service, ready to be used as instruments of His grace. God alone knows how to draw all people to Himself, and when we offer ourselves to His service, He will inspire us and use us to be that shining light, guiding others out of darkness and into His marvelous light.
-My Catholic Life

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: May the God of love and



peace set your hearts at rest and speed you on your journey; may he meanwhile shelter you from disturbance by others in the hidden recesses of his love, until he brings you at last into that place of complete plenitude where you will repose for ever in the vision of peace, in the security of trust, and in the restful enjoyment of his riches.
-St Raymond of Penyafort

FOOD BANK: This weekend January 3rd & 4th is our



turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Members of the Knight of Columbus will be on hand before all the weekend masses to collect nonperishable or monetary donations. **Please note for future food bank collections: In days of inclement weather, the collection will take place at the entrance inside the Church.**

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be



held January 8th 2025 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

CARE AND COMPANIONSHIP: Do you have some time to volunteer to visit seniors, as members of our Care and Companionship ministry? Residents are wonderful and kind folks who are appreciative of your time and effort. Playing cards, music, reading, or just chatting all mean so much. Check us out. We’re happy to assist you and offer ideas. Please come to our 'Care and Companionship' meeting

January 15th 10:00am at the Parish Hall to discuss your thoughts and questions.

COFFEE SOCIALS: Will be held after all the masses the weekend of January 17th & 18th in the Jubilee room. Please join us for a cup.

COLLECTION: Here are a few items that would greatly help the counters when dealing with collection. 1. Please put the amount on the envelope. It just confirms what we count on the inside especially if there are distractions. 2. The envelopes are the right size for a cheque or dollar bills so, please do not fold the money, flat is easier. 3. Please use tape sparingly. It makes it very difficult to open them. 4. Please make all cheques payable to **St. Ambrose Parish** (i.e. Collection for St. Ambrose Church or Our Lady of Lourdes, Cemetery donations or payments for Our Lady of Calvary, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Gabriel’s or St. Raphael’s, to Tabitha Centre or the building fund.) Thank you for your cooperation.

ENVELOPE USERS: Please remember to notify the office of any changes to your personal information. With a large number of people using envelopes, simply writing your information on the envelope often goes unnoticed. For those of you who haven’t picked up your envelopes, please do so in the entrance of the church.

EPIPHANY PARTY: Christmas lasts for 12 days! Come join us for an Epiphany social in the Jubilee Room on Sunday, January 4th after the 11:15 am Mass only. Bring a snack to share!



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Kathleen Joan Harding and Bernard Leslie Deveau
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.