



## December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**Pastor:** Fr. Henry Smolenaars  
**Fr. Henry Email:** frhenrys@gmail.com  
**Hospital Chaplain:** Fr. Wieslaw Papuga  
**Priest on Call:** 902-746-8233 (Emergencies and Sacrament of the sick)  
**Office hours:** Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm  
**Church email :** stambrosememail@gmail.com  
**Bulletin email:** stambrosebulletin1@gmail.com  
**Tabitha Centre:** 902-742-8960  
**Confession/Adoration** Wednesday 7:00-8:00

### MASS INTENTIONS – Decem. 27<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

**Sat.** 4 pm Parishioners  
**Sun.** 9am Margaret T. Crowell  
**Sun.** 11:15 am Donald Baker  
**Tues.** 6:30 pm Laura Letteney  
**Wed.** 6:30 pm Mass of Thanks Giving  
**Thurs.** 10 am Parishioners  
**Fri.** 9 am Wanda Scott  
**Sat.** 4 pm Intentions of Deacon Bruce Hubbard  
**Sun.** 9am Parishioners  
**Sun.** 11:15 am Bob LeFave

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

**Sun.** 10 am December 28 Nicholas Clegg  
**Sun.** 10 am January 4 Anniv. Audrey Muise

**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:** Family Life and the Holy Family  
Sunday within the Octave of Christmas When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the

Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. Today we honor and ponder the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The love within their home exceeded that of any other household, and the love within their family poured forth upon their extended family and wider community. Scripture gives us limited details about the life of the Holy Family. What we do know is that from the very beginning, they suffered through enormous challenges. Mary's pregnancy was the first challenge they faced. She conceived the Christ Child before she and Joseph lived together. Though she knew how she conceived the Son of God, Joseph did not understand until the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. We can imagine that relatives and members of the community expressed their disapproval, given that the angel of the Lord did not reveal the truth to everyone. Jesus was born far away from their home, in the little town of Bethlehem, in a cave, where animals dwelt. Humble shepherds were their first guests, and the magi from the East soon followed. Within a year or two after Jesus' birth, this family had to uproot from their home and flee to Egypt, find accommodations, and earn a living because Herod sought to kill the child Jesus. After Herod's death, Joseph was instructed in two subsequent dreams that he could return to Israel and was to move his family to the small and unremarkable village of Nazareth. Though Nazareth was not held in high esteem, it was within this simple setting that Jesus was raised and learned the virtues of hard work, obedience, and humility. Nazareth, though overlooked by the world, became the sacred ground where the Savior of the world was prepared for His mission. Finally, given that Saint Joseph is not mentioned during the time that Jesus exercised His public ministry, it is commonly believed that Jesus and His mother experienced the human sorrow of Joseph's earthly death. Despite the hardships the Holy Family endured, the love in their home overshadowed every challenge, making their family life a source of the utmost consolation and joy. Amidst the trials they faced, the Holy Family found joy, not in worldly comforts, but in their deep union with God and with each other.

Their home was a sanctuary of love, prayer, and mutual support, where God's presence was always felt. How fascinating it will be one day, in Heaven, if God reveals to us the details about the earthly and hidden life of the Holy Family. Though the angels witnessed their lives as they unfolded in time, we can hope and imagine that God, in His goodness, will share these mysteries with the saints, revealing the true beauty of the Holy Family's earthly life together. Their conversations, interactions, charity, prayer, fun, work, and all that made up their family life will be a source of eternal admiration and gratitude. Reflect today on the Holy Family. Ask God to give you insight into their lives together. As you do, use any insights as a source of inspiration for your own life and relationships with those closest to you. Though we will all fall short of the charity that permeated the home of the Holy Family, we can work to imitate them by allowing God to increase our charity toward one another. Through daily prayer, acts of sacrifice, and a commitment to love one another, we can create a family life that reflects the holiness and unity of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. *Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Your family life was holy beyond imagination. In your daily interactions, Your love was manifest and inspiring to each other and to Your relatives and friends. Please draw me into Your family life and teach me to love those in my family so that we will become a stronger community of love. Jesus, I trust in You.* -My Catholic Life

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** Remember the sufferings of Christ and the crown that came from those sufferings which gave new radiance to the faith. The whole company of saints bears witness to the unfailing truth that without real effort no one wins the crown. -St. Thomas Becket

**NEW HEARING AID SYSTEM AT SAINT AMBROSE:** Do you have trouble hearing because you use a hearing aid at Church? Just recently, I just connected our sound system to an Auracast Transmitter that broadcasts through Bluetooth to connect directly to your hearing aids. It works with certain models from Jabra, Starkey, Resound, Oticon, Beltone and more. Talk to your hearing aid provider and ask them how to connect to an Auracast transmitter. There are also earphones you

can buy for \$60 which I can connect for you if you don't have hearing aids. If you would like to try them for mass, let me know. Fr. Henry.

**CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS:** The office will be opened December 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and be closed on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> and reopening for Friday January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026 for regular hours of operation.

**FOOD BANK:** Next weekend January 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**THANK YOU!** Just a word of thanks to all those who worked in the different ministries to make Christmas a joyous occasion. All your (often unseen) hard work helps make the Christmas season a blessed and prayerful time. Also, thank you for your well wishes, cards, gifts. May the New Year through the grace of God bring you good health, comfort and Peace. -Fr. Henry, Fr. Pat and Fr. Wieslaw

**ULTREYA:** The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held January 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS:** Did you know that New Year's Day is a holy day of obligation? On this feast day we honour Mary the Mother of God! Just a reminder that this is one of the two holy days of obligation outside of Sundays we are asked to come to mass.

### ST. AMBROSE NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

**December 31 Wednesday (New Year's Eve)**  
6:30 pm



**January 1 Thursday (New Year's Day)**  
10:00 am

