



December 31st 2023 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
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Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
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Office hours: Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS –December 30th – Jan 7th, 2024

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am The Associates AMFA
Sun. 11:15 am Mariette Comeau
Mon. 10 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Megan & Chester Atkinson
Wed. 6:30 pm Special Intentions
Thurs: 9 am No Mass (Funeral Mass 10 am Donald Baker)
Fri. 9 am Brian MacKenzie
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Albert & Stella Cunningham
Sun. 9am Anniv. Stanley & Louise Bourque
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am December 31 Roland Surette
Sun. 10 am January 7 Bessie & Peter Thibeault

REFLECTION: The Family as a Communion of Love

Reflections
 When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful

hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families. By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little. The line from today's Gospel quoted above does, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord..." Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord. The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives. Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love? Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a

model for us all. *Lord, draw me into the life, love and communion that You lived with Your Immaculate Mother and Saint Joseph. I offer You myself, my family and all those to whom I am called to love with a special love. May I imitate Your family love and life in all my relationships. Help me to know how to change and grow so that I may more fully share in Your family life. Jesus, I trust in You. -My Catholic Life.*

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

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE:

December 30 & 31 – St. Ambrose

Regular weekend Mass times

December 31 – Our Lady of Lourdes

10:00am


January 1 Monday – St. Ambrose

10:00 am

NOTE: January 1st is a holy day of obligation!



QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

 When the heart is pure and simple it cannot help loving, because it has discovered the source of love which is God. -St. John Mary Vianny

CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS:

The office will be closed on January 1st and reopening for January 2nd 2024 for regular hours of operation.



ULTREYA:


The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held January 4th 2024 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

FOOD BANK:

next weekend January 6th & 7th, is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated. Members of the Knights of Columbus will be on hand before all the masses to receive the donations.




KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:

 Tuesday January 9th, all members invited 6:00pm executive meeting and 7:30pm general meeting.


PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE: May 17– 27, 2024:

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje where Our Lady has been appearing daily for 42 years. Cost of \$3570 includes all airport taxes, security, fuel surcharges, airfare from the Moncton/Halifax, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. (Optional single room supplement, \$250/p.) **INFO:** Hector Caissie at hectorcaissie@gmail.com or 506-857-2295.

PARISH LIBRARY:

 Did you know we have a parish library in the Parish Center? We have many good books to choose from. Books on saints, spirituality, biographies and many other topics. Come and check out what we have and borrow one!

ADORATION CHAPEL:

 There is a very special place where Jesus actually resides where you can go and be alone with him. Quiet your soul in prayer or in silence with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He is literally waiting for you in our little Adoration Chapel.

If you want a radical change in your life, this may be what you are looking for. This is an opportunity to be still and hear the voice of God.

If interested, please call Debbie Murphy-Payie at 902-740-2005.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of

Donald Gary Baker

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.