



**Holy Family Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
**December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 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

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**Reconciliation/confession** is available by appointment only at this time please call the office or email Fr. Henry directly for an appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS--December 26 <sup>th</sup> -January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021			
Sat.	Dec. 26	4pm	Pauline Shaver and Dora Jacquard
	Dec. 27	9am	Jane Muise and Adele Robicheau
Sun.	Dec. 27	10am (Melbourne)	Avite Saulnier
	Dec. 27	11am	Parishioners
Wed.	Dec. 30	9am	NO MASS
Fri.	Jan. 1	10am	Special Intentions
Sat.	Jan. 2	4pm	Parishioners
Sun.	Jan. 3	9am	Clifford & Helen Hipson and Intentions of Harriet Gallant
	Jan. 3	10am (Melbourne)	NO MASS
	Jan. 3	11am	Ann Pennell and Edward Dorrian

Please note we will not be carrying the gifts for the offertory until further notice.

*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.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** How important it is that every child coming into the world be welcomed by the warmth of a family! External comforts do not matter. Jesus was born in a stable and had a manger as his cradle, but the love of Mary and Joseph made him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved ~Pope Emeritus Benedict

**EMAIL TRANSFERS:** are available. Please send to [stambrosemail@gmail.com](mailto:stambrosemail@gmail.com) Please add your

envelope number or personal information for income tax purposes.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:(Feast of Mary Mother of God):** This feast day (Jan 1st) is a day of obligation just like every Sunday is a day of obligation. We are fully booked for the 10:00 am mass at this time. If you want to watch, go to our web site at [www.stambroseyarmouth.ca](http://www.stambroseyarmouth.ca) or go to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57](https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57)

**LIVE STREAM MASS AT ST. AMBROSE:** We live stream mass every Wednesday at 9:00 am and on the weekend at the Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am or 11:00 am mass on a rotating basis. The 8:00 Christmas Eve mass and the 10:00 New Year's Day masses will also be live streamed. The next scheduled mass is always posted on our website's main page. If you want to watch, go to our web site at [www.stambroseyarmouth.ca](http://www.stambroseyarmouth.ca) or go to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57](https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57) No Mass in Melbourne for January 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**REFLECTION: The Way Has Been Prepared...Are You Ready?** John said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' 'as Isaiah the prophet said.'" John the Baptist is alive! Yes, he is alive in Heaven receiving his eternal reward. But he's also alive in another way. He's alive in his ongoing proclamation, calling us to repentance and calling us to prepare the way for the Lord in our lives. His message is just as relevant for us today as it was some 2,000 years ago. At the time he walked the earth, he preached so as to prepare the immediate way for Christ. He prepared the way for the Messiah to physically enter into our world and present us with the gift of eternal salvation. But St. John continues to prepare the way for the Lord, if we are willing to listen. We learn from John that the first step to a life of holiness is to "make straight the way of the Lord." How do we do this? How do we make straight the way of the Lord? We do it by humbly admitting those sins which get in the way of Jesus coming to us and transforming our lives.

Reflect, today, upon the year that is past as well as the year to come. What is it that you need to let go of from the past and what is it that you need to focus on for the coming year? Make a clear resolution to identify any obstacle to the coming of Christ into your heart and let yourself discover the new life that awaits you this coming year. *Lord, You came into this world out of perfect love for me. You came to save me from all sin and You came to deliver me from all evil. Help me to see that which has kept me from You this past year and to surrender it to You. Help me also to have hope and vision for all that awaits and all that You are calling me to. May I heed the words of the Baptist and make the road ahead straight so that I can follow Your perfect will. Jesus, I trust in You.*  
~my Catholic Life

**CURSILLO:** The Yarmouth and Area Cursillo Secretariat would like to wish all the present and future Cursillistas a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are all praying for a time when Ultreyas and Cursillo Weekends can resume. In the mean time we continue on our pilgrimage and to journey to the Father through Christ, with the help of Mary and all the saints, bringing your brothers and sisters along with you. De Colores.

**FR. HENRY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:** In the hustle and bustle that leads up to our celebration of Christmas, many of us find ourselves asking, "What's it all about?" We sometimes wonder in the rush, the stress and the hurry, whether we have somehow missed the real meaning of it all. Christmas came upon us fast. Along with Christmas comes the time for gathering ... gathering with family and gathering with our church family. Because of COVID, your Christmas experience is probably much different this year. I know our Church experience is very different. Having to turn away people who normally come to celebrate Christmas eve mass has not been easy. COVID can suck the life out of Christmas if we let it. It can be especially hard for people who have had to isolate from others, like the elderly. Joy is something I spoke about recently in my homily, that even when things are hard like they have been with COVID with all the limitations it causes, we can still have joy in our hearts if we

allow Jesus in. This Christmas then can be a time we get back to the real meaning of Christmas which is about Jesus entering into the world ... our world. May God bless us all in this New Year and may Jesus enter into our hearts and give us the gift of peace only He can give. Fr. Henry

**THANK YOU:** There is no doubt that COVID makes everything much more work. Without the cleaners, greeters and seaters, we couldn't have mass. I'd like to personally thank all those who put in the hard work and dedication in helping to do these things over the past months and into the next few months. Your work is greatly appreciated by me! I also like to thank the people who helped make Christmas a joyous occasion and a blessed and prayerful time through their various ministries. Finally, thank you for your well wishes, cards, gifts. May the child Jesus enter into each one of your hearts and give you the love and peace He brings, especially now in these difficult times we are living in. Fr. Henry

**NEW YEAR'S LIVESTREAMS:**

**January 1 – St. Ambrose**

The Feast of Mary Mother of God will be livestreamed at 10:00 am for those of you watching from home!

**Note: Please don't come to a mass you are not registered for. There is a 100-person limit per mass because of COVID restrictions and all masses are now full.**



**OFFICE HOURS:** Please note the office will be closed December 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be open December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**ST. AMBROSE CHOIRS SINGING SILENT NIGHT:**



Check out our website to listen to Silent Night done by all our choirs together through the magic of computers. Even your own Pastor has a part!

**FOOD BANK:** next weekend January 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated.

