



December 25th, 2022 The Nativity of the Lord

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Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
 after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS — Dec. 24th-January 1st 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Sarah Lyons
Sat. 6pm Special Intentions
Sat. 8 pm Special Intentions
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30pm NO MASS & OFFICE CLOSED
Wed. 6:30 pm NO MASS & OFFICE CLOSED
Thurs: 9 am Deceased Residents of the Tusket Villa and
 Peter Cottreau
Fri. 9 am Anniv. Stanley Bishara Sr. and Lottie Nickerson
Sat. 4 pm Linda Lusk and Mildred Frost
Sun. 9 am Stella Cunningham and Yvonne Eldridge
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sat. 5 pm Dec. 24 Mass of Thanksgiving
Sat. 6 pm Jan. 1 Ernest DeViller

REFLECTION: Pondering the Birth of Christ So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her

heart. Merry Christmas! Our Advent preparations have been completed, and we are now invited by our Lord to enter into the glorious celebration of His birth! How well do you understand the awe-inspiring mystery of Christmas? How fully do you comprehend the significance of God becoming a human, born of a virgin? Though many are quite familiar with the beautiful and humble story of the birth of the Savior of the World, that familiarity can have the surprising negative effect of keeping our intellect from deeply probing the depths of the meaning of what we celebrate.

Notice the last line of the Gospel passage quoted above: “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” What a beautiful line to ponder this Christmas day. Mother Mary was the one person who would have understood the mystery of the birth of her Son, the Son of God, the Savior of the World, far more deeply than anyone else. It was to her that the Archangel Gabriel appeared, announcing her pregnancy and His birth. It was her who carried her Son, the Son of God, in her Immaculate womb for nine months. It was to her that Elizabeth, her cousin, cried out, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”. It was Mary who was the Immaculate Conception, the one who was preserved from all sin throughout her life. And it was her who gave birth to this Child, carried Him in her arms and nursed Him at her breast. Our Blessed Mother, more than any other, understood the incredible event that had taken place in her life.

But, again, the Gospel above says that “Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” One thing this tells us is that even Mary, the mother of Jesus and the mother of God, needed time to ponder, reflect and savor this most holy mystery. She never doubted, but her faith continually deepened, and her heart pondered the unfathomable and incomprehensible mystery of the Incarnation.

Another thing this tells us is that there is no end to the depth of the “pondering” to which we must commit ourselves if we want to enter more deeply into the mystery of the birth of the Son of God. Reading the story, setting up a nativity scene, sharing Christmas cards, attending Mass and the like are central to a holy celebration of Christmas. But “pondering” and “reflecting,” especially during

prayer and especially at the Christmas Mass, will have the effect of drawing us ever deeper into this Mystery of our Faith. Reflect, today, with our Blessed Mother. Ponder the Incarnation. Place yourself into the scene that first Christmas. Hear the sounds of the town. Smell the smells of the stable. Watch as the shepherds come forth in adoration. And enter the mystery more fully, acknowledging that the more you know about the mystery of Christmas, the more you know how little you actually know and understand. But that humble realization is the first step to a deeper understanding of what we celebrate this day.

-My Catholic Life

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Let us dance with delight in



the Lord and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing, for eternal salvation has appeared on the earth, alleluia.

-Liturgy of the hours

COLLECTING FOR SHYFT: Thank you to everyone who generously gave for the homeless. SHYFT House is also in need of our help. SHYFT provides temporary *housing* for up to seven youth (ages 16 - 24) and also residential services. We will be collecting for the next little while for them. There are containers at the back of the church. Here is a list the things they are looking for: Small refillable shampoo bottles, Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, Hair brushes, Lip Balm, Ensure, Reusable Water Bottles, Mirrors, Crayons, Pencil Crayons & Markers, Craft Paint, Activity Books- Crossword Puzzles, Note Books, Towels, Belts, Ankle Socks.

FOOD BANK: The weekend, of December 31st &



January 1st 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.

ULTREYA: The next Yarmouth Area Ultreya will be



January 5th at 7pm in the Marian Hall at St. Ambrose. Welcome to all!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR.

HENRY: We have come to the end of another very challenging year. Often when things get hard, we focus on the darkness of the challenges. We tend to forget that the light of Christ is shining and that it can shine through the darkness. Just recently, Pope Francis encouraged people to strive for joy saying that “We’ve never heard of a sad Saint.” Pope Francis said, “being missionaries of joy should be part of our lifestyles to help people face difficult situations in life.” That’s my message also to you for the new year. As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, we should let joy be born in our hearts so we can influence our world that’s broken and lost in darkness. For those of you who are returning to Church today after being away, let the joy of this celebration fill you. I want to also thank all of you who share your time, talent and treasure with our parish. Nothing in a parish happens by magic but is the culmination of the work of many. May all darkness in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ’s birth and may you be missionaries of that joy! Fr. Henry

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE:



December 31 – St. Ambrose

4:00 pm

December 31 – Our Lady of Lourdes

6:00 pm

January 1 – St. Ambrose

9:00 am

11:15 pm



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
 John Surette
 Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.