



The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph December 26th, 2021

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
 902 - 746 – 8233 (Hospital)
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
Church email : stambrosemail@gmail.com
Bulletin email: stambrosebulletin1@gmail.com
Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
 after mass from 9:30-10:00 Starting January 5th

LIVESTREAM MASS INTENTIONS Dec. 24- Jan. 5

Fri. Dec. 24 6pm Parishioners
Sun. Dec. 26 9am Parishioners
Wed. Dec. 29 9am Special Intentions and Anniv. Zoe
 LeBlanc
Sat. Jan. 1 9am Parishioners
Sun. Jan. 2 9am Parishioners
Wed. Jan. 5 9am Special Intentions

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.

LIVE STREAM MASS AT ST. AMBROSE: We live stream mass every Wednesday at 9 am and on the weekend at the Sunday at 9:00 am mass on a rotating basis. 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 or go to our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/SaintAmbroseParish/videos?view=57

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Arise, all you nobles and peasants! Mary invites all, rich and poor, just and sinners, to enter the cave of bethlehem, to adore and kiss the feet of her newborn Son. ~St. Alphonsus Liguori



EMAIL TRANSFERS: are available. Please send to stambrosemail@gmail.com Please add your envelope number or personal information for income tax purposes.

REFLECTIONS: Honoring the Holy Family

Reflections **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life. Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love. But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered

misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way. This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue.

Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family. *Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You, my family. I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth. Jesus, I trust in You.* ~My Catholic Life

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: Once again, COVID is the Grinch who is trying to steal Christmas. Because of COVID we are now restricted by Public Health to 50 people or less in our church. Even though this is the rule at present, the rules seem to change every other day because of the increase in cases. It feels a bit like standing on quick sand in that every time we call everyone things get changed again right after. Because of this, and because of the seriousness of COVID it has been decided that we will not have masses open to the public in the next while. There will be a mass Christmas Eve Livestreamed at 6:00pm using enough people to do music and the readings. Sunday masses will be Livestreamed at 9:00am. PLEASE understand that this decision was



not made easily. As Christmas approaches may Jesus who is the light of the world enlighten your hearts during this difficult time. May God bless you and keep you safe. ~Fr. Henry Smolenaars

FOOD BANK: Next weekend January 1st & 2nd, is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated.



OFFICE CLOSED: The parish office will be closed for Monday December 27th to Wednesday and reopening December 30th & 31st. We will also be closed for Monday January 3rd.

LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS: The Living Faith quarterly prayer booklets are late arriving but they are on the way; we will let you know as soon as they arrive.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
 David Joseph LeBlanc and Earl Joseph Boudreau
 Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Please welcome into our Christian community
 Braxtyn Louis James Fitzgerald who was
 baptised on Sunday December 19, 2021.

Please keep Braxtyn and his family in your prayers.