



## December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**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 :** stambrosemail@gmail.com  
**Bulletin email:** stambrosebulletin1@gmail.com  
**Tabitha Centre:** 902-742-8960  
**Reconciliation/confession** is held on Wednesday after mass from 7:00-8:00

### MASS INTENTIONS –December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

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

**Sat. 4 pm** Anniv. Doris Fitzgerald  
**Sun. 9am** Anniv. Jamie McDonnell  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Parishioners  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Anniv. Hector D'Eon  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** For the safety and wellbeing of all fishermen  
**Thurs: 9 am** Charlotte Eve Murphy  
**Fri. 9 am** The Associates AFMA  
**Sat. 4 pm** Parishioners  
**Sun. 9 am** Curtis LeBlanc  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Gerard MacKinnon

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

**Sat. 6 pm** December 2 Harvey & Alice Saulnier  
**Sun. 10 am** December 10 Marion Pothier

**REFLECTION: Do Not Miss Out...** “Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” To which time is our Lord referring? He is referring to the time of His coming. But it must be understood that even though He came to us once in the flesh long ago, and though He will return again in the flesh to judge the living and the dead at the end of time, He never ceases to come to us day and night by the

transforming gift of grace. Are you attentive to this coming? Or do you miss out on the countless blessings of God’s grace that He wants to bestow upon you every day, all day? The world has many distractions. We are distracted by the lure of riches, the indulgence of our appetites, and the constant noise of modern media, electronic gadgets and the like. These and many other daily distractions make it very difficult to be constantly “watchful” and “alert.” This is because our attention span is limited. Though some may learn to “multi-task” to a certain extent, no one can continually divide their attention between the presence of God and the distractions of the world.

Some may argue that it is necessary to engage the world today. It is not possible to continually pray and think only about God. But those who would be tempted to think this do not understand the attentiveness and watchfulness to which we are called. Being watchful and attentive simply means that God is central in our lives and is the motivation and purpose of all we do every day. Our love for and service to God cannot be divided. We cannot set aside some time for the world and other times for God. Instead, everything we do, every day, all day, must have the glory of God and the fulfillment of God’s perfect will as the central and exclusive purpose of our lives. Thus, if we interact with the world, tune into social media, fulfill household chores, put in extra hours at work, etc., we must constantly ponder the simple question, “Lord, am I doing this for Your glory and in accord with Your will?” We must never fail to ask ourselves that question. We must always have the glory of God and the fulfillment of His will as the central purpose and motivation for all that we do. If we can live this way, then we will discover that it becomes increasingly easy to always and everywhere be attentive to and watchful for God’s will.

Reflect, today, upon that to which you most often turn your attention. What is it that you think about the most each day? To what are you most attentive and watchful? If the answer to that question is not the ongoing promptings of God and His grace, then make note of that fact. Humbly pray that you can change and begin to form a transforming habit of daily keeping your attention on our Lord so that He will become your daily guide and focus in all things. – My Catholic Life

**MATTHEW 18 RENEWAL MEETINGS:** We take our name from the scripture Matthew 18:20 which states: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." We meet every Monday night at 7pm in the Jubilee room, unless it is a holiday or storm, " If the schools are closed, due to storm, there is no meeting." All are welcome to join us at any time. Maybe we are the spiritual nourishment you are needing in your life at this time. If you have any questions about our group, you can contact one of the Core members: Lorraine Manser at 902-749-1903, Denise Surette at 902-749-6343 or Cheryl Harding at 902-740-3816.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever.  
-St. Thomas Aquinas



**CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT:** Saint Ambrose is having their annual *Night of Joy Christmas concert* on Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds to Tabitha Centre.



**RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** There will be a reconciliation service Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm here at St. Ambrose. Why not make this Christmas extra special with feeling the deep forgiveness this sacrament can give?



**LOOKING FOR A PRIEST TO VISIT YOU IN THE HOSPITAL?** At one time, when you were admitted into the hospital, the hospital would ask you what religion you were and you would be added to the list of Catholics (if you were Catholic). Then, people would go around and bring Communion to people on this list 3 or so times a week. Things have changed. There is no longer a list being made. Thus, we have no idea who is in the hospital (that is Catholic) at any given time. Therefore, if you or a family member is in the hospital and you or they would like a visit from a priest, call the number for the priest on call 902-746-8233. It is normally our hospital chaplain Fr. Wieslaw who will answer. Also, if there is someone you know who is in need of a visit from a priest, please check with

them first if they would like a visit and then let the priest know. The nurse's station also has this number and will call the priest in for Sacrament of the Sick when someone is very sick or dying, when it is requested. NOTE: Just a reminder, that you don't have to wait until the last minute to do this. Please try to call the priest for Sacrament of the Sick during the day if possible.

**PEOPLE PRETENDING TO BE ME (FR. HENRY):** Once again, someone has been emailing people pretending to be me. Just to remind people, I will never ask for money from anyone through email. Also, my email address is [frhenrys@gmail.com](mailto:frhenrys@gmail.com). If the address is not this one, it is not me.

**DIOCESAN FEAST DAY:** Starting this year we will celebrate December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, as our *diocesan feast day*. The faithful of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth are invited to join Archbishop Dunn as he presides at a special **7:00pm Mass at Saint Mary's Cathedral on December 8**. Let's gather to entrust the people and parishes of our diocese to the care and intercession of Mary.

**ULTREYA:** The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

**THANK YOU:** to all the people who came to help with the pre-Christmas church cleaning. It was greatly appreciated and a job well done!



**FOOD BANK:** This weekend, December 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.



**CHRISTMAS LECTORS:** Are you a lector who may be interested in reading at one of the Christmas Masses? 6:00pm Children's Mass (Youth lectors), 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm or Christmas Day 10:00am if so, please call the office to express your interest and let them know what mass you'll be attending.

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES:** 2024 envelopes are available for pick up in the entrance of the church.