



August 25th 2024
21st Sunday of Ordinary
Time

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
Confession/Adoration Wednesday 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS –August 24th– Sept. 1st, 2024

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Basil McGuigan
Sun. 9am Ronnie Harris
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Anniv. Donald Parnell
Wed. 6:30 pm Anniv. Bill Rodgerson
Thurs: 9 am Richard Moulaison
Fri. 10 am Intentions of Neil & Janice Bourque
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Olive & Alfred Pothier
Sun. 11:15 am Delbert d'Entremont

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sat. 6 pm Aug. Aug. 24 Wendy DeViller
Sat. 6 pm Aug. 31 Loring Clairmont

REFLECTION: Unwavering Fidelity Always Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” These words of Saint Peter present us with the conviction we must have when fidelity to the will of God becomes difficult. God is demanding. He wants everything from us. We will only obtain Heaven once we surrender everything over to the will of the Father

and believe all that He has revealed. If we fail to do so before we die, we will need to be purified in Purgatory. There is no way around this. God is a demanding God to the greatest extent possible. The truth is that this is all good. It is good that God demands complete submission to His perfect will and teaching because these are exactly what is best for us. From time to time, because of our weak and fallen human nature, we can perceive God’s will as too demanding and His teaching as too difficult. Do I really have to forgive everyone completely? Do I really have to lay my life down without reserve? Do I really have to keep the Commandments to perfection? Do I really have to be perfect as the Father in Heaven is perfect? Yes. But as we try to do so, we will experience many temptations to give up, thinking that God’s will is too hard.

Today’s Gospel comes at the end of the beautiful Bread of Life Discourse in which our Lord taught clearly, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.” At the beginning of today’s Gospel, upon listening to Jesus’ new teaching, many of His disciples murmured among themselves saying, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” This teaching of Jesus is “hard” in the sense that it requires a profound faith to understand completely. But just because something is hard to accept does not mean that we should not accept it. Peter’s statement quoted above gives us the words we should say whenever we find God’s will or His teaching difficult to accept. When that happens, we must hear Jesus ask us the same question He asked the Twelve: “Do you also want to leave?” Jesus will not try to manipulate us. He will not back down when He sees we are struggling. He will not lessen the requirement of being His faithful follower. Instead, He will give us the freedom to either believe or leave. And when we feel like leaving, we should always remember Peter’s words, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Peter’s statement says all we need to know in the face of any interior conflict of faith. Sure, we could leave our Lord and do our own thing. But where would we go? To embrace the passing pleasures of the world? To what end? If we believe and are convinced that Jesus is the Holy One of God, then

no matter how hard, no matter how demanding, no matter how difficult, we must embrace fidelity to God in all things. That act of fidelity, especially when we struggle with some interior conflict, is the key to unlocking the transforming power of God in our lives. Reflect, today, upon any ways that you have felt God’s will or any of His revealed truths to be difficult and demanding. When you face such an interior challenge, what do you do? If your response is to turn from God and become lax in your fidelity to Him, then reflect upon Peter’s words to Jesus. Make those words your prayer, and let that prayer strengthen your conviction to become an unwavering and faithful follower of God.
My demanding Lord, in Your great love and mercy You require everything of me. You ask me to give You my life in total surrender and service of Your perfect will. When I am weak, give me strength. When I doubt, give me faith. Help me, Lord, to always deepen my resolve and to follow You with complete fidelity. Jesus, I trust in You. -My Catholic Life

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS: Eucharistic Procession

news On Saturday afternoon October 19th Eucharistic Congress attendees will have the opportunity to boldly witness the faith and take part in a Eucharistic Procession. The procession will start at 4:00pm and start from Saint Agnes Church Mumford Road and process to Saint Mary’s Cathedral Basilica Spring Garden Road. The walk is approximately five kilometres. For those who wish to walk only part of the procession there will be stopping points along the route for a brief prayer and for others to join in. The route and stopping points will be provided once confirmed. Our hope is that this procession will witness Christ alive and well in our Archdiocese and so by representing of ALL the faithful including the young, young at heart, members of the Mi’kmaq, parishioners from across the whole Archdiocese, and representatives of the various new immigrant communities. To register go to <https://www.halifaxyarmouth.org/congress2024>

OFFICE CLOSED: The office will be closed on Monday September 2nd to observe the Labour Day holiday. We will reopen for regular hours of operation on Tuesday.



WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC? *Are you a non-Catholic interested in the Catholic faith? Are you thinking you might want to become Catholic? Are you a Catholic adult who never celebrated your 1st Communion and/or Confirmation? Then RCIA is for you. RCIA will be starting this fall at St. Ambrose. If you are interested then please contact the office for a form you can fill out to sign up. Come and join us this fall!*

ACADIAN HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION: A small celebration of the Acadian Heritage Day will be held August 25th at 2:00pm at the Harbour Hill Community Hall in Comeau’s Hill. All are welcome to attend.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW INFORMATION: One of our parishioners is doing some research on the stained-glass windows here at Saint Ambrose. Many of these windows are donated on behalf of loved ones, and she is hoping to gather some information about them. If you have information to share, please leave your contact information with the office.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Woe to me if I should prove to myself a half-hearted soldier in the service of my thorn-crowned Captain.
 -St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen



ULTREYA: The next Yarmouth Area Cursillo Movement Ultreya is on September 5th, 2024 at 7pm at St. Ambrose Marian Hall.



FOOD BANK: Next weekend, August 31st and September 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.



CATECHISM CLASS REGISTRATION: Registration for Catechism classes for grades primary to eight will take place on October 6th in the Praish Centre from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm. Classes will only start October 20th from 10:10 to 11:00. Confirmation registration to be determined.

