



September 3rd, 2023
22nd 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)
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 – September 2nd – 10th 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Rose Deveau
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Bernard Bourque
Tues. 6:30 pm Eugénie Doucet
Wed. 6:30 pm Paula Bishara
Thurs: 9 am Sarah Lyons
Fri. 9 am Beatrice Johnson
Sat. 4 pm Frances & James Saulnier
Sun. 9 am Intentions of Gary & Anita Banks
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sat. 6 pm September 2 Stanley DeViller
Sun. 10 am September 9 Anniv. Edith LeBlanc

REFLECTION: Fear of the Cross “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?” [Matthew 16:24-26](#)



Just before Jesus gave this teaching, He predicted to the Twelve for the first time that He would “suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.” In fear, Peter objected, saying, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.” To Peter’s statement, Jesus responds firmly, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” What a difficult thing that must have been to hear from Jesus!

Jesus was ready and willing to suffer and die for the salvation of the world. He knew that by dying He would transform death itself into the very means of eternal salvation. He knew that laying down His life in this way was the greatest act of love He could offer; therefore, Jesus didn’t hesitate at all. He was ready and willing to give His human life so that we could live.

To understand this, we must realize three things. First, by assuming our human nature, Jesus forged a bond between God and humanity. Second, by sharing in our death He made it possible for us to cling to Him in our own death. Third, by rising from the dead, Jesus made it possible for those who cling to Him in death to also share in His Resurrection. Though we will only fully understand this great mystery of redemption in Heaven, we must strive to comprehend it as best we can here on earth.

Peter did not understand this, at least not at that moment when Jesus first revealed it. Peter allowed fear to tempt him to interfere in Jesus’ glorious act of salvation. This is why Jesus rebuked him so strongly. It was a loving rebuke meant to free Peter from his fear and to give him courage to embrace the Sacrifice Jesus was about to offer.

The passage quoted above follows Peter’s rebuke and is Jesus’ instruction on how we will all share in His gift of salvation. In order to rise with Christ, we must freely die with Him. We must deny ourselves, meaning all selfishness and sin, and imitate Jesus’ heroic sacrificial gift of His life. The result will be that we are united to Him in His death and in His Resurrection to new life.

Fear can paralyze us. But fear, in this case, is a response that is based on an error. We embrace that error when we act out of selfishness. Each of us will die. That’s a fact. The question is how we die. We can either die selfishly, seeing our earthly life as

the center of all. Or we can die in a self-giving way with our Lord by uniting ourselves to His act of sacrificial love. We do this by turning our eyes away from ourselves and seeking out every way that we can imitate Jesus’ death. We must strive to serve, live sacrificially, put God’s will first, unite ourselves to Christ, and make love for our neighbor our mission in life. This is what Jesus did. When we do this, we take up our cross, follow Him, die with Him, and are prepared to share in His Resurrection. This is the only way to eternal life.

Reflect, today, upon the words “Take up your cross and follow Me.” This is Jesus’ most sacred instruction to us all on how we should live and how we will share in His gift of eternal life. What cross in your life are you fearful of? What act of sacrifice do you avoid? True love hurts in the sense that it is always selfless. We must die to ourselves. Reflect upon any way that you fail to do this, and allow Jesus’ rebuke of Peter to also rebuke you so that you will be freed from the fear of this holy sacrificial love that will unite you to our Lord. -My Catholic Life

THE SEARCH: Are you ready for *The Search*?



All of us know people who would benefit from encountering God and the Church, and from experiencing the peace, joy, and purpose that a relationship with Jesus brings. Invite them to come to *The Search*. *The Search* is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence. *The Search* tackles questions such as “What do you Seek”, “Why a God?”, “Who is Jesus”, “Why a Church?”. Whether they are a practiced inquirer or a jaded skeptic, *The Search* will speak to them. They may be reassured by some parts, and challenged by others. Either way, they will find a lot here to think about. And when all is said and done, life’s questions demand to be answered. You can watch the trailer at <https://youtu.be/QOwZFL5Wpj8>

or google “The Search Trailer”. Thursday evenings from October 5 to November 30,- 7:00 to 8:45 pm in the Parish Centre. No cost to attend.

Registration required at 902 742-7151 or search.stambrose@gmail.com
 Questions can be sent to the above email or leave a message with the office and someone will get back to you.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: It is not by their clothes that



Christians are known, but by their works.
 -St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

ROSARY GROUP: Starting September 14, come join



me in the Jubilee Room after 9 am mass to say the rosary. Intentions for loved ones and conversion of hearts. Come and grow closer to God through the Blessed Virgin Mary. If any questions please call or text Sarah Hubbard at 902 740-2191

FOOD BANK: This weekend, September 2nd-3rd, is



our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated.

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be



held September 7th 2023 at Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

SUNDY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: The registration



for catechism classes for grades primary to eight will be October 1st and 8th in the Parish Centre between the 10:00am and 11:00 am. The first class for the 2023/2024 year will begin on Sunday October 15th at 10:10 am to 11:00 am.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:



Tuesday September 12th, all members invited 6:00pm executive meeting
 7:00pm general meeting
4th Degree Tuesday September 19th at 7:00pm
Community Breakfast: September 24th 9:00 to 12:00 cost is \$10.00 Adults and 12 and under \$7.00
Soup Kitchen: opens September 12th

COFFEE SCIOALS: are being held after all the masses



the weekend of September 16th & 17th. Come join us for a cup.

OFFICE CLOSED: Monday September 4th in observance of Labour Day.