



September 8th 2024
23rd 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 –September 7th - 15th, 2024

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Marie & Paul DeGrosbois
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am Donald Baker
Tues. 6:30 pm Esther Rose Frotten
Wed. 6:30 pm Special Intentions
Thurs: 9 am Brent Creaser
Fri. 9 am Carmella Stoddart
Sat. 4 pm Yvonne Rodgerson
Sun. 9am Isabelle Sweeney
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am Sept. 8 Marion Pothier
Sun. 10 am Sept. 15 Arthur Muise

REFLECTION: Humble Instruments of Grace He put his finger into the man’s ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, “Ephphatha!”—that is, “Be opened!”—And immediately the man’s ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. One interesting point in this story is that the people who brought this deaf and mute man to Jesus begged Him to “lay his hand on him” so as to heal him. But what did Jesus do? Instead, He took the man away from the

crowd, put His divine finger into the man’s ears, touched the man’s tongue with His own sacred saliva and the man was cured. At first, the act of putting your finger into someone else’s ear and touching their tongue with your own saliva may seem repulsive. Normally it would be. To understand these two actions, we must understand the symbolism. The image of a finger is used a number of times in the Scriptures to refer to God’s power. In the Book of Exodus after the plague of the gnats, Pharaoh’s magicians said that this was clearly done “by the finger of God”. On the mountain when Moses received the Ten Commandments, we know that it was also God’s finger that wrote them. In the book of Daniel, a finger appeared and wrote a prophetic message on a wall. In the New Testament, Jesus cast out a demon “by the finger of God” and in today’s Gospel He healed this man’s hearing with His finger. The “finger of God” is understood as the power of God and an action of the Holy Spirit. Thus, by using His sacred finger to heal, Jesus was symbolically revealing that He fully exercised the power of God and acted in perfect union with the Holy Spirit and the Father. The image of saliva is also interesting. Perhaps you have noticed that when an animal has a wound it often licks that wound. This is a natural instinct but also one that makes sense. Saliva has a certain medicinal power of healing. It contains antibacterial agents. Therefore, since normal saliva can help heal a wound, Jesus’s saliva is able to heal in a supernatural way. Recall, also, that Jesus healed a blind man by spitting on the ground and then smearing the mud on his eyes. Did Jesus need to use His finger and His saliva to heal this man? Certainly not. He could have done it with a mere thought. But He chose to use His body as an instrument of His healing power. Doing so reveals to us that Jesus’ humanity became the source of unity between God and man. Even His finger and His saliva unite us to God. Everything about the Son of God in His human form dispensed grace, healing and mercy. Even that which may, at first, seem most repulsive. Though there is much we can take from this passage, one thing that should not be missed is that if Jesus chose to use His finger and even his saliva to dispense His power, so, also, He desires to continue using the members of His Body to distribute His grace. By Baptism, you are a member

of Christ’s Body, the Church. You are His hands and feet, His eyes and voice, His heart and finger, and even His saliva. That last thought is very humbling. But if Jesus can use His saliva for healing, He can use you. If we can humbly understand that, then we will be better disposed to become an instrument of His divine mercy to those who need it. God is able to use us NOT because we are worthy of being used. Rather, He can use us because He has chosen to do so, even in our most humble state. Reflect, today, upon the image of Jesus healing this deaf and mute man. If you ever feel as though God cannot use you, call to mind the way in which our Lord worked this miracle. If God can use His finger and His saliva, He certainly can use you, no matter how unworthy or sinful you may be. This miracle shows us that God can use all things for His glory for the simple reason that He is God. Humble yourself and offer yourself to God to use you as He wills. Doing so will give God the opportunity to manifest His almighty power through you. -My Catholic Life

CELEBRATING THE LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN: at the 11:15 Mass

WHEN: After the opening prayer, Father will invite children to come to their own Celebration Space in the Jubilee Room with their Lectionary. The liturgy then continues as usual in the Church with the Liturgy of the Word for those remaining.

WHO: All school aged children are invited, especially those between 5 and 8. Children younger than 5 are welcomed if accompanied by an adult. Adults are also welcomed to accompany children of any age.

OUTLINE: Welcome and Prayer
 Proclamation of the Word of God
 First Reading

Responsorial Psalm
 Gospel Acclamation
 Gospel
 Homiletic Reflection
 Profession of Faith
 Prayer of the Faithful

The Children return to their families at the presentation of the gifts.

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!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Happy are those who concentrate on following the will of God in all their actions. They will enjoy a deep peace because they find their happiness in doing God’s will. – St. Jane Frances de Chantal



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 am. Classes will only start October 20th from 10:10 to 11:00. Confirmation registration to be determined.



KNIGHTOF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly meeting Tuesday September 10th, all members invited to attend. 6:00pm executive meeting, 7:00pm general meeting



4th Degree meeting Tuesday September 17 at 7:00 pm, **Soup kitchen** started up on Tuesday September 10th, all are welcome.

HOSPITAL HULLABALOO 2024: Women’s Auxiliary Yarmouth Regional Hospital are in grave need of volunteers to help with this year’s Hospital Hullabaloo. If you are able to help in any way on September 13th and/or 14th please contact Cheryl Harding at 902-740-3816 or Carol Deveau at 902-742-7020. Any time you are able to give would be very much appreciated!

SCRIPTURE STUDY: Starting Friday September 20th at 7:00 pm in the Jubilee Room No prior bible knowledge needed. No video, no homework, no fee, no registration. At every Mass we say that the Eucharist is the new and everlasting covenant. Join us as we explore the biblical covenants of the Old Testament and how they are connected to the Eucharist. 10 weeks starting September 20th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Jubilee Room - enter from the side door of the Church.

