



December 8th, 2024 2nd 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
Confession/Adoration Wednesday 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – December 7th – 15th, 2024

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Clarence Surette
Sun. 9am Special Intentions
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Anniv. Andrew Deveau
Wed. 6:30 pm Melford & Doris Fitzgerald
Thurs: 9 am Anniv. Maria Cascao
Fri. 9 am Anniv. Larry Burke
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Delby & Louise Saulnier
Sun. 11:15 am Marilyn, Earl and Stephen Goudey


Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am Dec. Dec. 8 Nicholas Clegg
Sat. 6 pm Dec. 14 Claudette Taylor

REFLECTION: Removing the Obstacles to Grace
“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” These, the words of the prophet Isaiah, were spoken about the mission of Saint John the Baptist. John was to “Prepare the way of the Lord” and to “make straight his paths.” In prophesying this, Isaiah goes on to give this very descriptive image of John’s ministry. It

would be one that levels mountains and valleys, straightens every winding road, and smooths out the rough terrain. In other words, John came to remove every obstacle to God, making it easy to encounter the Messiah. How does John complete this mission? By calling the people of that time to the dry and empty desert where all the false allurements cease to exist. This is done by detachment from the many sins and temptations they faced. Their repentance was an act by which the people humbled themselves before God, admitted their sins and acknowledged their need for a Savior. This humble admission, coupled with the commitment to change their ways, prepared heart after heart for the grace and mercy that came through Christ the Lord. Today, there are countless obstacles to grace that so many people encounter. Some have been drawn into the satisfactions of earthly riches and material comforts and find little need for God. Others have very little that this world can offer but are consumed with a desire for money and the passing comforts it promises. And still others are drawn into many other forms of sins and false satisfactions. But there are some who are like a dry and deserted desert, just waiting to soak up the gentle rain of God’s grace. These are those who have sought to detach themselves from the false promises of this world and remain “empty” and “dry” so as to be prepared for the abundance of grace when it comes. These holy souls have heeded the call to repentance and have humbly acknowledged their need for the Savior. Reflect, today, upon whether or not your soul is like that dry and barren desert, detached from all the false and passing satisfactions of this world, and prepared to soak up the mercy and grace of God alone. Repentance brings forth detachment, and detachment prepares the soul for God. When one is truly detached and free from the many obstacles to God, then the road from God to your soul will be straight and easily traveled. Reflect upon your soul today and where you see unhealthy attachments. Repent with all your heart so that you are among those most fully ready for an abundance of the grace and mercy of God. -My Catholic Life

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:

 Tuesday, December 10th, all members invited. **Executive Meeting** at 6:00pm

General meeting at 7:30. 4th Degree meeting will be on December 17th at 7:00pm with healing Rosary starting at 6:30pm for all our sick Brother Knights. **Community Breakfast Fundraiser:** No Knights of Columbus breakfast for the month of December. **Knights of Columbus** organized a fundraiser for the wheelchair ramp railings on November 30th and December 1st. A total of 150 takeouts were sold and a total of \$2000 was raised. We would like to thank all parishioners for their generosity and contributions in making this event a huge success.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Anyone wishing to donate towards Christmas flowers for **Our Lady of Lourdes** in memory of a loved one may do so at the office or you can put your donation in an envelope with your name and envelope number on it along with “in memory of _____” written on it and place it in the collection basket.



RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There will be a reconciliation service Thursday December 12th at 6:30 pm here at St. Ambrose. Why not make this Christmas extra special with feeling the deep forgiveness this sacrament can give?



COFFEE SOCIALS: The coffee socials will be held *Coffee Social* after all the masses next weekend of December 14th and 15th. Come join us in the Jubilee Room for a cup.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT: Saint Ambrose is having their annual *Night of Joy Christmas concert* on Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds to Tabitha Centre.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: The person who fails to comprehend God’s grace is blind. After receiving a great pearl, that one throws it away as a common pebble, thereby being deprived of it’s possession through ignorance of the beautiful. -St. Gregory of Nyssa



COLLECTION ENVELOPES: 2024 envelopes are available for pick up in the entrance of the church. Please remember to pick them up.



CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed Tuesday December 24th to Thursday December 26th and will be open for Friday December 27th 9:30am to 1:00. The office will also be closed on December 31st and January 1st and reopening for January 2nd 2025 for regular hours of operation.



CHURCH DOORS: Please note that on Monday and Tuesday December 9th & 10th the main entrance will be closed. The carpet in the entrance only, will be replaced as it is deteriorating from salt and water. Please use the **Jubilee doors** to enter the church until 4:00pm on the Tuesday. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCAMS: It’s that time of year again when people are receiving fake emails from someone saying that they are Fr. Henry and requesting help. Fr. Henry will not ever ask for help in the form of gift cards or by email so please do not respond to such requests.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE:

December 24 Tuesday– St. Ambrose

6:00 pm Children’s Mass
 8:00 pm
 10:00 pm Please join us for carols prior to mass.



December 24 Tuesday– Our Lady of Lourdes

8:00 pm
December 25 Wednesday – St. Ambrose
 10:00 am

January 1 Wednesday– St. Ambrose

10:00 am

Please note there is no masses before 6:00 pm as directed by the diocese.



Please welcome into our Christian community Nguyen Khang Ha who was baptised on Sunday December 1st, 2024.

Please keep Khang and his family in your prayers.