



## March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**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 – March 22<sup>nd</sup> –30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

**Sat. 4 pm** Anniv. Edward Robicheau  
**Sun. 9am** Stella & Albert Cunningham  
**Sun. 11:15am** Parishioners  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Lisa Hatt  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** Anniv. Celeste Rodgeron  
**Thurs: 9 am** Victor Comeau  
**Fri. 9 am** Special Intentions Anne Muise  
**Sat. 4 pm** Parishioners  
**Sun. 9am** Isabelle Sweeney  
**Sun. 11:15am** Gladys & Clark Charles

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

**Sun. 10 am Mar. 23** Robert Doucette  
**Sun. 10 am Mar. 30** Ulysse Cottreau

**REFLECTION:** The Divine Gardener: “For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.’” Imagine for a moment that you were the owner of the orchard in which this fig tree was planted. After the gardener asked you to

wait for one more year and promised to fertilize the unfruitful fig tree and cultivate the ground around it, you agreed. Then imagine coming to inspect that same fig tree the next year. Imagine three scenarios. First, what would you do if, once again, there were no figs present? Second, what if there were only a few figs? Third, what if the tree suddenly produced an abundance of good fruit? It seems clear that in the first scenario, if for the fourth year in a row not a single fig was produced, it would be time to cut down the tree. This depicts the justice of God sent forth on those who obstinately resist His grace. In the second scenario, the decision might be more difficult. If the tree produced only a few figs for the first time, then perhaps that would provide enough hope for the future of that tree to ask the gardener to continue caring for it. This depicts those who are in a state of grace but are still lazy in their service of the will of God. In the third scenario, however, the reaction of the owner of the orchard would be clear. There would be much excitement and gratitude that the gardener’s good work paid off. Jesus is the Gardener, and we are the fig tree. This parable should lead us to look at our lives and examine whether or not we bear good fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus comes to you to cultivate the soil of your heart, fertilizing it with His holy Word, watering it with His Sacraments and doing all He can to give you the opportunity to produce the fruit of charity in your life. How successful are these actions of our Lord in your life? Too often, when we see only a little good fruit being borne from our lives, we are satisfied. And though any good fruit is good, we are wasting our lives if we do not do all we can to become as abundantly fruitful as possible. Imagine the joy in the Hearts of our Lord and the Father in Heaven if they were to look upon you and see good fruit being produced beyond expectation. Why wouldn’t this be your goal in life? Our Lord is patient, but He is also just. Do not try His patience, and do not succumb to His justice. Reflect, today, upon the image of you being this fig tree and our Lord as the divine Gardener. Commit yourself to His actions of tilling and fertilizing. You do so by strengthening your commitment to reading and understanding the Word of God, by participating more fully in the Sacraments, by being more focused upon your daily prayer, by examining your

conscience more fully, and by sincerely confessing your sins. Do all you can to cooperate with the action of our divine Gardener and you will be amazed at the good fruit that begins to pour forth from your life. *My divine Gardener, You have committed Yourself to the humble work of tilling the soil of my heart and fertilizing it with Your abundant mercy. I choose, this day, to respond to Your grace and pray that my cooperation with You will produce an abundance of good fruit in my life for Your glory and the building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.* -My Catholic Life

### FISH CHOWDER FRIDAYS: We will be offering take



out fish chowder on the Fridays of Lent. We ask you to call the parish office to place your order. The cost is \$7.00 and it may be picked up at the Marian Hall doors between 4:00 and 5:00. Thank you for supporting our youth!

### THIS WEEK'S EPISODE FROM THE SERIES ETERNAL

**REST:** *The Hour of Our Death* - The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. But whom exactly is this sacrament for? What are its effects? In this session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle during serious illness, in the final stages of our temporal life, and at the hour of our death. Come join us this Thursday night at 6:30 in the Jubilee Room. P.S. If you haven't attended previous sessions, that's OK. Fr. Henry

### KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Community



**Breakfast:** This month's Community Breakfast will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm this Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone is welcome! The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for 12 and under. We appreciate your support!

### ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be



held April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 in Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held on the Fridays



of Lent at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral at 6:30pm. Each week will be led by a different group. The Good Friday performance will be led by the Confirmation Class.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK: The fruit of silence is prayer;



the fruit of prayer is faith; the fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service; the fruit of service is peace. -St. Teresa of Calcutta

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There will be a



reconciliation service **Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm** here at St. Ambrose. Why not make this Easter extra special with feeling the deep forgiveness this sacrament can give? Please note that the Wednesday evening Mass will take place at 9am in the morning.

### CHURCH CLEANING: Please join us on Monday April



7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am if you are able. Bring a bucket and gloves. Many hands make light work. Fr. Henry

### EASTER FLOWERS: Anyone who would like to make



a donation towards Easter flowers for **Our Lady of Lourdes Church** in memory of a loved one may do so by either putting your donation in an envelope with your number on it and placing it in the collection basket or at the parish office.

### FOOD BANK: The weekend of April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of  
George Robert Atkins and Helen Marie Fitzgerald  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.