



## December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 4<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024


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

**Sat. 4 pm** Trooper Corey Joseph Hayes  
**Sun. 9am** Parishioners  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Gerard MacKinnon  
**Tues. 6:00 pm** Special Intentions  
**Tues. 8:00 pm** Special Intentions  
**Tues. 10:00 pm** Special Intentions  
**Wed. 10:00 am** Parishioners  
**Thurs: 9 am** No Mass  
**Fri. 9 am** No Mass  
**Sat. 4 pm** Stanley Bishara Senior & Junior  
**Sun. 9am** Deceased Members of the Durden Family  
**Sun. 11:15 am** Parishioners

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

**Sun. 10 am Dec. 22** Narcisse & Freda Surette  
**Tues. 6:00 pm** Nicole Murphy  
**Wed. 10:00 am** Parishioners  
**Sun. 10 am Dec. 29** Stanley Davis & Robert Doucette

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK: In a time of desolation, never

forsake the good resolutions you made in better times. Strive to remain patient – a virtue contrary to the troubles that harass you – and remember that you will be consoled.  
  
 -St. Ignatius Loyola

**REFLECTION: Wonder and Awe** “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Elizabeth expressed a beautiful humility in this statement. The Blessed Virgin Mary had just made a long journey to be with Elizabeth in her final months of pregnancy. As soon as our Blessed Mother greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth’s child, Saint John the Baptist, leaped for joy in her womb. Elizabeth acknowledges this and then humbly expresses the fact that she is exceptionally blessed to have Mary, the mother of her Lord, come to visit her. There are many things worth pondering in this visitation of our Blessed Mother. But try to focus upon the humble wonder and awe expressed by Elizabeth. “And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Elizabeth was clearly grateful for Mary’s visit. But it appears that her reaction went even beyond gratitude. She was given the gift of wonder and awe. She clearly knew she was incredibly blessed by the fact that both the Mother of God and her Lord Himself were now in her presence in her home. This gift of wonder and awe that Elizabeth experienced is one of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It’s a gift that enters a humble heart, enabling it to first see its unworthiness of a special grace given. But then this humble soul receives the special grace and responds with an overwhelming amazement. Thus, not only is gratitude present, but there is also this holy amazement that results in praise of God. In our own lives, there are so many incredible graces we have received from God. But too often we fail to see them for what they are. We fail to see the incredible graces God has given us and, thus, fail to experience the amazement that should result from God’s gifts. As you look at your own life, what graces has God given to you? Do you see them? Are you grateful for them? And, if so, are you able to go even beyond gratitude so as to experience a holy wonder and awe of God’s goodness and blessings in your life? Though it might be difficult to arrive at this level of amazement, it is a true gift that we must all strive to obtain and experience every day of our lives. Reflect, today, upon this holy gift of the Holy Spirit that Elizabeth experienced. Place yourself at the scene. Try to see the experience within her heart. Try to feel how she felt. Try to sense the praise that

resulted. And try to open yourself more fully to receive this same gift of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Lord comes to you constantly by grace, especially every time you receive Him in Holy Communion. For that reason, we must all strive to live a holy wonder and awe every day of our lives.  
 -My Catholic Life

### ST. AMBROSE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S SCHEDULE

#### CHRISTMAS

##### December 24 Tuesday

6:00 pm Children’s Mass  
 8:00 pm  
 10:00 pm Please join us for carols prior to mass starting at 9:15.



##### December 25 Wednesday

10:00 am

#### NEW YEAR’S

##### December 31<sup>st</sup> Tuesday

6:30 pm

##### January 1 Wednesday

10:00 am

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

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

#### Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas eve)

8:00 pm

#### Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)

10:00 am

### FR. HENRY’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:



Christmas is upon us once again. In this season, we reflect on the long and difficult journey made by Mother Mary and St. Joseph from Nazareth to a stable in Bethlehem. We hear from the angels who proclaimed his birth. We have the shepherds and wise men who followed the star and came to worship Our Lord. God sent Jesus to be the light of the world. As Christians, we’re meant to carry the light of Jesus in our hearts. We need to let this light grow inside, because we face many challenges and the darkness of the world. Just as Mother Mary did, we’re called to surrender each day to the will of the

Lord and allow His Son to enter more deeply in our lives. When we encounter Christ in prayer and the sacraments, his light in us grows and dispels the dark of our soul. When we refuse to let things like unforgiveness and greed enter our hearts, this makes room to allow for his light to enter and brighten the human spirit. This is the way he transforms us. Our challenge at Christmas and throughout the new year, is to radiate this light and share it with others. May God’s love be felt by you and your loved ones throughout this Christmas Season and into the New Year.

### CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS:



The office will be closed Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> to Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup> and will be open for Friday December 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30am to 1:00.

### JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE:



The Catholic Church worldwide will be celebrating a special Jubilee Year in 2025. This has been a tradition dating back to the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII announced the first Jubilee, which is also referred to as a “Holy Year”. The frequency has changed over time, with a Jubilee year originally celebrated every 100 years, later every 50 years and, more recently, every 25 years or at the request of the Holy Father. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee will be “Pilgrims of Hope”. Every cathedral and co-cathedral are to be places of pilgrimage for the Jubilee year and are to have a cross installed next to the altar until the closing. A mass to inaugurate the Jubilee year is to be done at every cathedral and co-cathedral on Sunday, December 29. Ours will be at the 11:15 am mass. Fr. Henry

### COLLECTING FOR SHYFT:



SHYFT House needs our help. SHYFT provides temporary housing for up to seven youth (ages 16 - 24) and also residential services. We will be collecting for the next little while for them. There are containers at the back of the church. Here is a list the things they are looking for Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, body wash, hair brushes, hair elastics, hair dryer, clips/bobby pins, mirrors, razors, shaving cream, boxers, feminine underwear and Pjs.