



March 30th, 2025
4th 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 29th – April 6th, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Isabelle Sweeney
Sun. 11:15am Gladys & Clark Charles
Tues. 6:30 pm Benton Gallagher
Wed. 6:30 pm Anniv. Robert & Elizabeth Trefry
Thurs: 9 am Special Intentions
Fri. 9 am Special Intentions
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Edward Comeau
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15am Anniv. Lorraine & Edwin Harding

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am Mar. 30 Ulysse Cottreau
Sun. 10 am Apr. 6 Russell Frotten

REFLECTION: Seeking the Lost: Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So, to them Jesus addressed this parable. This is good news! Our Lord “welcomes sinners and eats with them.” For that reason, there is room at His table for you! Sometimes it’s hard to admit that we are sinners. Of course, we know in our minds that we are. But our



pride can easily lead us to justify our sin, downplay it and conclude that we are not that bad after all. If you find yourself thinking this way, be careful. Doing so will make you like the Pharisees and scribes in the passage above. Clearly, they did not see themselves as sinners, which is why they condemned Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them. The passage above comes from the beginning of Chapter 15 of Luke’s Gospel and serves as an introduction to three subsequent parables. First, our Lord tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep, then the Parable of the Lost Coin, and then the Parable found in the rest of today’s Gospel passage, the Parable of the Lost Son. In the first parable, the shepherd who finds his lost sheep rejoices. In the second parable, the woman who finds her lost coin rejoices. And in the parable, we read today, the father who finds his lost son rejoices and throws a party to celebrate. Return, again, to the passage above that introduces these three parables: “Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus.” Once they drew near, Jesus spoke to them about the joy of finding that which was lost. Perhaps as Jesus initially spoke about the finding of the lost sheep and lost coin, this would have resonated with these tax collectors and sinners to a certain degree. But then our Lord tells them the long and detailed story about this boy who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living, and ends up with nothing. The story expresses the confusion of this boy, his desperation, his guilt and his shame. We learn of his interior thinking, reasoning, fears and anxiety. As you ponder this parable, try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who all drew near to our Lord. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They had a past full of regret, just as this boy. They were unsatisfied in life and were looking for a way out, just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near Jesus would have been mesmerized by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son. Reflect, today, upon the touching image of these tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Try to

understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the father’s abundant mercy. Think about how they would have related as they discovered that there was hope for them, too. If you struggle with being like the scribes and Pharisees, reject that temptation. Instead, see yourself as one of those sinners who drew near to our Lord and you will be the cause of joy in the Heart of the Father in Heaven. -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.

THIS WEEK’S EPISODE FROM THE SERIES ETERNAL

REST: *The Faithful Departed* - What is left for the living to do after someone dies? In this session, we talk about the final ways in which those still living on earth care for the body and soul of the dead. We discuss the work that remains for the living to do as we grieve for the deceased and as we turn to the work of preparing for our own death, and the hope in which we live and die as Christians. 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

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.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There will be a



reconciliation service this **Wednesday April 2nd 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



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

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held April 3rd, 2025 in Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!

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: Next weekend of April 5th and 6th, 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting



will be held on April 8th with an executive meeting at 6:00pm and a general meeting at 7:30pm. **Community Breakfast Fundraiser:** 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on April 27th. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for 12 and under. We appreciate your support! ***In a world that has forgotten the value of brotherhood, we seek it out. The Knights of Columbus is a brotherhood of 2.1 million men around the world working together to grow in faith, formation and fraternity. Will you join us?*** For information on joining the Knights of Columbus please contact Roland LeBlanc at rolly2000@outlook.com or by phoning 902-988-0242.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Emile Joseph LeBlanc
 Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.