



April 6th, 2025
5th 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 –April 5th - 13th, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Edward Comeau
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15am Anniv. Lorraine & Edwin Harding
Tues. 6:30 pm Anniv. Gertrude Doucette
Wed. 6:30 pm Mary Pinner
Thurs: 9 am J. Donald Surette
Fri. 9 am Anniv. Richard Robicheau
Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Marion Surette
Sun. 9am Intentions of Anna Woodworth
Sun. 11:15am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am Apr. 6 Russell Frotten
Sun. 10 am Apr. 13 Emile Comeau

REFLECTION: Scandalized by Mercy: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. What a painful and humiliating experience this must have been for this woman! Fortunately, the Savior of the World was there to



care for her and to help her navigate this situation through His abundant mercy. Though she was a sinner, God’s mercy offered a remedy for her sin and its consequences. Interestingly, this story is not included in some of the most ancient manuscripts of the Gospel of John. Saint Augustine believed that it was excluded by some of the early copyists of this Gospel because they were moral rigorists and were scandalized by the depths of Jesus’ mercy. They feared that if this incredible act of mercy was conveyed to others, it would lead to a relaxation of moral rules. The scribes and Pharisees who brought this woman to Jesus also appeared to be scandalized by Jesus’ mercy. Thus, the depths of mercy offered to this woman was one of many occasions in which Jesus was merciful to a point that was hard for the people to comprehend. How about you? How far are you willing to go when it comes to mercy? It is easy for us to resort to condemnation when we see the sins of others. We might feel justified in condemning them and even obliged to do so out of a desire to condemn sin itself. But Jesus’ action shows that the sin must not be equated with the sinner. Sin must be condemned and was condemned by our Lord when He said to this woman, “Go, and from now on do not sin any more.” Though He condemned her sin, he did not condemn *her*: “Neither do I condemn you.” The mercy of God is incomprehensible. For example, recall that Jesus cried out from the Cross, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” Imagine the surprise that the first hearers of those words would have had. How could this man ask that God forgive the people who were murdering Him? Perhaps the only person who truly understood this prayer of mercy from the Cross was Jesus’ own mother as she stood there gazing at Him with love. An important lesson for us to learn from Jesus’ depth of mercy is that, at first, it will most likely scandalize us also. Mercy to this extent is supernatural. It challenges our natural reason and calls us to a new way of thinking and relating to others. The only way to overcome the “scandal” we might feel in the face of God’s mercy is to live it ourselves. Doing so will require that we put on new eyes to see sin, mercy and forgiveness through the eyes of God. If doing so shakes you to the core of your being, that might be a good sign. Are you allowing the apparent scandal of God’s abundant

mercy to transform you so that it is no longer a shock or scandal to you, but is experienced as good and holy and from the Heart of our God? Reflect, today, upon how deeply you understand God’s mercy. Do you rejoice when mercy is offered to another? Or do you find yourself condemning? Our Lord said, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” None of us are without sin; therefore, none of us has the right to cast a stone at another. Allow the apparent scandal of God’s mercy to challenge you so that you come to not only understand God’s infinite mercy but also to act as an instrument of that mercy to everyone. -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! On Good Friday it will be a dine in or take out from 2:00pm to 5:30pm at the Parish Centre dining room. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office in advance or at the door while quantities last.

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: Let us not put off until the



end of our life the care that we ought daily to take care of our soul. -St. John Vianney

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

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.

PARISH SECRETARY: - **Paroisse Notre-Dame de l'Assomption – Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau** - The parish is looking for a part-time secretary. 9a.m. to 2p.m. Tuesday to Friday. Duties include - typing and printing church bulletins, managing mass schedules and coordinating priest schedules, answering phones, checking emails and relaying messages to the appropriate staff member, printing baptismal and marriage certificates, keeping parish registers up to date, ordering candles, church envelopes, hosts, wine and other necessary supplies, keeping in contact with all committee members and attending monthly Pastoral committee meetings. Proficiency in the French language is required. To apply please send your resume at nda@eastlink.ca or call 902-648-2315.

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 (**Rescheduled from last week**)

PASSING OF FR. CLARENCE: It is with heavy hearts

we say goodbye to Fr. Clarence who has been a part of this parish for over 100 years as a parishioner, a priest and then its pastor. His presence will be missed. After so many years of selfless service, may God grant him a special place in heaven. Fr. Henry



Our sympathy is extended to the family, friends and parishioners of
Father Clarence Thibeau
 Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.