



**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of**  
**Ordinary Time**

**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 -February 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

**Sat. 4 pm** Benny Boudreau  
**Sun. 9am** Parishioners  
**Sun. 11:15am** Jason & Eric Ryan  
**Tues. 6:30 pm** Dora Surette  
**Wed. 6:30 pm** Irene Polson  
**Thurs: 9 am** Sandra Fevens  
**Fri. 9 am** A. Marie Atkinson  
**Sat. 4 pm** Parishioners  
**Sun. 9am** Garry McIntaggart  
**Sun. 11:15am** Anniv. Cathy Hubbard

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

**Sun. 10 am Feb. 9** Stanley Davis and Robert Doucette  
**Sun. 10 am Feb. 16** Oscar Harris

**REFLECTION:** **Overcoming** Discouragement After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. Jesus had just cured Simon Peter's mother-in-law as one of His first miracles. As a result of this



and other miracles, Peter's entire hometown of Capernaum, as well as many of the surrounding towns, were quickly coming to faith in Jesus. Today's Gospel takes place during this initial excitement over our Lord. In it, Jesus personally invites Peter to become an Apostle, promising to make him a fisher of men. There is much symbolism in this passage worth pondering. First, notice that Jesus uses something very familiar to Peter to invite Him to become one of the Twelve Apostles. He used his trade of fishing. This is similar to the way God used a star to draw the Magi, who were astrologers, to Bethlehem. Another symbolic action Jesus uses is that of putting out "into deep water." It was not enough to simply go a short distance from shore. Instead, the deep water was to symbolize the fact that the Gospel was to go forth to the ends of the earth, just as the fishermen were to fish in the depths of the sea. Finally, the fact that they "caught a great number of fish" symbolizes the superabundance that would come forth through Peter's apostolic ministry. And the fact that the "nets were tearing" points to the fullness that everyone will experience when they embark upon the mission of Christ. Though the symbolic aspects of this Gospel passage are worth much prayerful pondering, there is another line within the Gospel that might speak to you just as powerfully. Peter had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. The fact that he relates this to Jesus suggests that he was tired and perhaps even discouraged. Any fisherman could relate to this. But the important lesson Peter teaches us is that he does not give in to that discouragement. And the reason he doesn't give in to discouragement is because it was Jesus Who commanded him to lower the nets. In our own lives, we can all get discouraged at times. But the real test of our fidelity to God is whether or not we continue to listen to His commands of love and respond generously, dispelling any temptations to discouragement when things do not seem to be going our way. If we can do this, it is especially in these moments that God often uses us in powerful ways. Reflect, today, upon the voice of God in your life. What is it that you sense Him calling you to do? What is that "deep water" to which He is calling you? As you ponder this, reflect especially upon the words of Peter, "Master...at your command I will lower the nets." Say "Yes" to the command of our

Lord. Do so even if it is difficult, and especially if you do not feel like doing what He asks of you. If you do, you will find that in this act of fidelity, God will bring forth an abundance of good fruit. -My Catholic Life

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** Live in such a way that you



bear outwardly as well as inwardly the image of Christ crucified, the model of all gentleness and mercy. -St. Paul of the Cross

**COFFEE SOCIALS:** Will be held after the 4pm and



9am masses next weekend February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Join us for our **winter potluck** Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in the parish centre dining hall after the 11:15 am Mass. Our theme for this potluck is "multicultural dining". Please bring a special dish to share from your country or culture! For more information or to volunteer please call the office at 902-742-7151.

**KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:**



Tuesday, February 11, all members invited. **Executive Meeting** at 6:00pm and **General meeting** at 7:30.

**Knights of Columbus Nova Scotia State Council**

**Scholarship (value \$1000.00)** Scholarships are available for Catholic students who will be attending first year university or community college next year. Yarmouth Council 2181 will accept applications from students attending Yarmouth High, Par-en-Bas and Drumlin Heights. Students applying for a Nova Scotia State Council Scholarship will also be considered for one of our local scholarships. Please consult your school guidance counselor for application forms. Completed applications with supporting documents must be received by Council 2181 Scholarship Chairman Philippe Doucet on or before Friday March 7, 2025. If you require more information, please call 742-2970 or 748-1592.

**SMALL GROUPS:** In the next few weeks, you will be hearing about small groups in our bulletin. Being in a small group is a rewarding experience. It's a place you can share your faith with others who think like you. As we approach lent, we will be encouraging you to join one or form one as part of that journey through lent. Fr. Henry

**Are you interested in forming a Catholic small group?** Small group discussions are an excellent way of developing your faith and sharing with others. There will be a small group information session February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Jubilee Room. If you would like more information, please contact Liz Richard at [liz.richard.ab@gmail.com](mailto:liz.richard.ab@gmail.com) or 902-307-6456. The following is a testimony of a parishioner on how small groups have been beneficial: *The advantages of a small group meeting are the higher sense of engagement, and feeling like what you say matters. It is a place to feel safe to interact with others and more opportunity to offer your own interpretations and reflections. There can be better attendance in small groups as you may feel more committed to attend as your presence will be missed. Small groups lessen intimidation to speak and therefore better communication among the group members. SD*

**STEUBENVILLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE:** If you have not signed up yet it is not too late! Youth going into high school in September and peer leaders ages 19 & 20 that would be interested in attending the Steubenville Atlantic High School Conference from July 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Halifax this summer can call or message the office to register.

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



of Lent beginning March 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral at 6:30pm. Each week will be led by a different group.

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



out fish chowder on the Fridays of Lent starting March 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER:** Tuesday,



March 4<sup>th</sup> in the dining hall from 4:30-6pm, \$7.00 per person, \$5.00 for children 12 & under Includes pancakes, sausages and tea or coffee

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS:** The income tax receipts are ready for pick up in the entrance of the church for this weekend. Next week they'll mailed out.