



December 29th, 2024 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Confession/Adoration Wednesday 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – Dec. 28th – January 5th 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Stanley Bishara Senior & Junior
Sun. 9am Deceased Members of the Durden Family
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed. 10:00 am Parishioners
Thurs: 9 am Marion Moody
Fri. 9 am Delbert d'Entremont
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Stanley & Louise Bourque
Sun. 11:15 am Anniv. Bob LeFave

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am Dec. 29 Stanley Davis & Robert Doucette
Sun. 10 am Jan. 5 David Boudreau

REFLECTION: The Family as a Communion of Love
When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at

that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families. By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little. The line from today's Gospel quoted above does, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord..." Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord. The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives. Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love? Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

Lord, draw me into the life, love and communion that You lived with Your Immaculate Mother and

Saint Joseph. I offer You myself, my family and all those to whom I am called to love with a special love. May I imitate Your family love and life in all my relationships. Help me to know how to change and grow so that I may more fully share in Your family life. Jesus, I trust in You. -My Catholic Life

CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed on December 31st and January 1st and reopening for January 2nd 2025 for regular hours of operation.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: The journey to God follows many routes. So, let each person take to the end and with no turning back the way that was chosen. -St. John Cassian



ST. AMBROSE NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S
December 31st Tuesday
6:30 pm
January 1 Wednesday
10:00 am

ULTREYA: The Yarmouth and Area Ultreya will be held January 2nd, 2025 in Marian Hall at 7pm. We hope to see you then! De Colores!



FOOD BANK: Next weekend, January 4th and 5th, 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.



KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, January 14th, all members invited. **Supper 5:30 Executive Meeting** at 6:30pm **General meeting** at 7:30.



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.

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



Please welcome into our Christian community Rémi Joël Boudreau who was baptised on Sunday December 15, 2024.
Please keep Rémi and his family in your prayers.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Robert Ralph Surette
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.