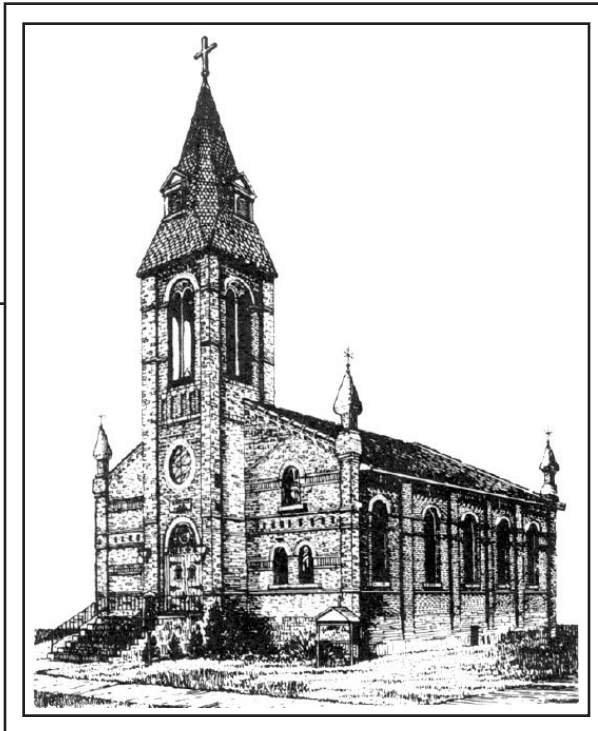


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



Every Friday:
HOLY HOUR
7:30 a.m.
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

Jayne Williams,
Office Administrator

Emilie Spence, **Sacramental
Co-Ordinator/Youth Minister**
SMYMCollingwood@gmail.com

**The Society of
St. Vincent de Paul
President:**

Adrian O'Connor
Tel: 705-444-0999
<https://ssvpcollingwood.ca>

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PARISH

St. Mary's Elementary School . . .705-445-6132
Our Lady of the Bay Catholic
High School705-445-2043
Notre Dame de la Huronie705-444-1764

BAPTISMS: Please call the Parish Office.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK, SHUT-INS: Holy Communion is brought regularly to sick and shut-ins. Please notify the rectory.

MARRIAGES: Couples planning to get married must contact a priest one year in advance for an appointment. They must also receive personal preparation for entering marriage. Please do not book the time and place of your reception before your appointment with the priest.

If either party has gone through any form of civil or religious marriage with another person, the priest is not permitted to set a date for the wedding until the Bishop's Office has been consulted.

PARISH REGISTRATION: All parishioners should be registered. Registration cards can be found in the Church foyer or at the parish office. Would you kindly notify the office when you are moving out of the parish.

BULLETIN NOTICES must be received at the parish office by Wednesday at noon. Announcements will appear for no more than two weeks, and should contain only pertinent information. Please be brief.

Catholic Women's League
President: Jean Stewart
705-445-2151

The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree
Grand Knight: Michael Dynes
705-994 3308
collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree
Faithful Navigator: Domenic Sanfilippo
705-445 7615

OUR CAUSE FOR HOPE

*"We have this hope,
a safe and sure anchor of the soul."*

(Hebrews 6:19)



I grew up with a respect for that which took place at the holy altar each Sunday and even, to some extent as I was young, a reverence for the homily following the readings. But I didn't really have a love and respect for the Word of God in that I didn't immediately and readily listen very well to the Sunday readings. With this personal

experience, I now believe that if Catholics, as they exited Mass in any parish, were asked what book of the Bible the First Reading was taken from, or the Second Reading or the Gospel, many if not most would be perhaps a bit embarrassed not to be able to answer. Or, if they were asked what was the First Reading or Second Reading or the Gospel about, I wonder how many people would know? I think this is why the homily, when prepared and centered on the readings themselves (and not just a theme) is supposed to be helpful in shedding light on the readings heard with a view of our life today. Though it may be interesting for us to know what sort of sandals Jesus wore or how long his beard might have been, it would do little to bring the Word of God's meaning to our living, particularly if we have come to church feeling like we're going down for the third time or are distraught, troubled, grieving or stressed.

That's because the readings from the scriptures, Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament and Gospels do address not only the needs of every people in every age but most especially for our own time, now. It is a Living Word that has such great power from God's revelation of Himself to us, that shouldn't be squandered or taken for granted.

Let's face it; we're living in some pretty crazy, even evil times, not to mention what we've been through – all of us – over the past few years. A world-wide pandemic has been handled by human beings and, therefore, handled imperfectly. While some would pledge allegiance to human thinking and direction others question it. And truth in the midst of all of this has been on holiday. A good example of this is what the media will choose to talk about (narrative) and what they won't, which in effect becomes the group-think of the many. An example: pre-pandemic, the sports world would see on average 29 sudden deaths per year worldwide, where now we are seeing upwards of 50 deaths per month, though most people have likely not even heard these numbers. If we are nations of truth-seekers, why is truth not more prevalent. And this in an age when the dangerous "you have your truth and I have my truth" mantra is spoken so often and believed. And that's because the world's standard of truth is up for grabs or changes depending on political affiliation, agendas and worldview. There must be some

standard of truth by which all things can be judged, and there is: the Word of God in all 73 books of the Bible.

Just this past week (Tuesday), the First Reading at Mass was a 10-verse passage from the letter to the Hebrews (6:10-20) which addressed and made clear the manifest truth that we have a great hope because of the faithfulness of the promises of God. We are given this great sense of the God-of-all reaching down to make His promises known to us so that we can have a God-founded, God-grounded hope. Yet hope as revealed by the scriptures is not a 'cross your fingers' kind of wishful thinking but a veritable hope in what God has promised. Can anyone say or hold that God has ever been unfaithful? No, of course not. God is always faithful. Our hope is not like that of hoping the weather will be nice tomorrow for that golf game or bike ride but a hope based on the knowledge of God's faithfulness to the world and to all of us it's inhabitants and His beloved children.

The passage from Hebrews 6 speaks of God's faithfulness to Abraham with a promise that would seem unbelievable and impossible: that God would bless Abraham and multiply his progeny. *"After patient waiting"*, because God's timing is perfect, *"Abraham obtained the promise"*. And, *"we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us"*. (6:18) The hope set before us... because our hope is founded on the strength and reliability that God is faithful to His promises, even though we so often are not. And we reflect this truth in just 11-words from the Lord's Prayer when we say, *"...Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"*.

Our hope built on the promises of Christ, while it must be taken up by every man, woman and child of the earth, cannot be based on or dependent on man himself as we so often don't or refuse to read the signs of the times. As the Prophet Jeremiah says: (17:5) *"This is what the Lord says: 'Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord.'"*

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen wrote: *"It is characteristic of any decaying civilization that the great masses of the people are unaware of the tragedy. Humanity in a crisis is generally insensitive to the gravity of the times in which it lives. Men do not want to believe their own times are wicked, partly because they have no standard outside of themselves by which to measure their times. If there is no fixed concept of justice, how shall men know it is violated? Only those who live by faith really know what is happening in the world; the great masses without faith are unconscious of the destructive processes going on, because they have lost the vision of the heights from which they have fallen."*

And thus, our cause for hope is in the faithful promises of God who never comes too soon or too late, the Source of our hope.

*"Hope is the thing with feathers
that perches in the soul
and sings the tune without the words
and never stops at all."*

Emily Dickinson



Tuesday Jan 24
8:30am +Anthony Pantaleo
Requested by Fr. Charles Forget

Wednesday Jan 25
7:00pm Special Intentions of the Guerrero Family

Thursday Jan 26
8:30am Health Intentions Fr. Peter Conlin
Requested by Ann & Larry Voisin

Friday Jan 27
7:30am Holy Hour
8:30am St. Mary's Parishioners

Saturday Jan 28
4:30pm +Joseph Wylie
Requested by Doety Lewis

Sunday Jan 29
9:00am For the People

11:00am +Al Mattacott
Requested by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Intentions of
The Parishioners of St. Mary's
From Jan 22 to Jan 28, 23



Please Pray for the Sick

Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Ken Buchan,
Jean Ferguson, Rose Flanagan, Fred Coulson, Andrew Vella,
Gwen Collard. Janine Wright, Fr. Peter Conlin, Emilie Gosselin.

Pray for those who have died recently

Helga Shortt

OFFERTORY

Jan 16, 23 \$3920.00 (Inc PAG)



CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING.

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2022 & supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637

CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We will continue our membership drive again this weekend Jan 21/22. Ladies take advantage of this convenient way to renew or join. We will also be hosting muffins and coffee following the 9 and 11 am Masses on the Sunday. Stay awhile and say 'hi'.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

When you use your 2023 Offertory Envelopes, could you please put your name and address on the front for the first couple of times. Also, a reminder please **DO NOT USE** any envelopes that were given out prior to 2023. A lot of the numbers have changed in the system and we want to make sure that the donation goes to the correct person. Thank You

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

WHY A PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING PLAN?

PAG allows St. Mary's parishioners to make their regular Sunday offering and if they wish their ShareLife offering using the "Direct Debit" system. PAG is an option, not a requirement! When you participate in the pre-authorized giving, your offering is withdrawn from your account one a month on or about the 20th day of each month .

BENEFITS FOR YOU AND FOR ST. MARY'S

PAG is convenient. Your offering is deducted automatically. There is no need to search for your chequebook or stop by a bank machine on the way to Mass. PAG allows you to support St. Mary's when you are away – a benefit for the church since expense continue all year long. Most importantly, you are in control; you can increase or decrease the amount or withdraw fro the PAG plan simply by dropping a signed note in the collection basket or the parish office.

HOW DO I ENROLL IN PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Decide the amount of your monthly offertory contribution, fill out the PAG authorization form, we have forms at each entrance to the church and in the parish office. Include a blank cheque marked "VOID" and place both in a sealed envelope. You can place the envelope into the collection basked or drop it into the parish office.

WILL I STILL USE ENVELOPES

If you still wish to use envelopes you can, there is a box on the front of the envelope that you can check it says "PAG Donation". You can also use the envelopes for any of the special collections not covered by your PAG. PAG only covers regular offertory and ShareLife. **Please call the office if you are interested in signing up for our PAG program.**

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