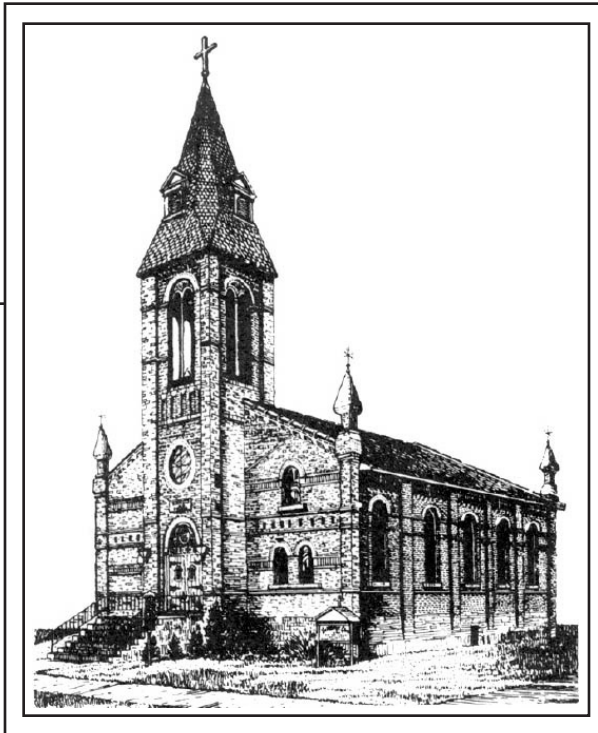


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
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Tel: 705-445-1790
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

HOLY! HOLY! HOLY!

Have you ever wondered why we say or sing *'Holy, Holy, Holy'* repeating the same word three times? In Jesus' time to repeat something twice could show affection or underline the directness of his words, as in the case of Jesus being in Martha and Mary's house and His address to Martha concerning her worrying and fussing over little things – "Martha, Martha...". Jesus shows intimacy with Martha in repeating her name. When God called Abraham, he called his name twice in order to get his absolute attention to the importance of His call and we hear this is Jesus' words from heaven when He called out to St. Paul in the midst of his conversion; "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Likewise, Moses is called out by name by God, "Moses, Moses When God calls you should listen. In Jewish liturgy when something is important it is repeated twice. When, however, something is repeated three times then it is an extraordinary thing.

The word *'holy'* means 'set apart' or 'total otherness'. As Bishop Robert Barron says, "God is not just another thing in the room. He is totally and absolutely other." The fact that God is God and we are not God is an understatement while it shows us that God, in being totally other to us is in no way and by no means anything like us – He is God. He is the highest, the Creator and Maker of all and there is nothing above Him or besides Him, thus the First Commandment, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt. You shall have no other gods before me." (Deut. 5:6-7)

We get an early glimpse of the greatness of God in the words of the Prophet Isaiah when he describes the angels each having six wings proclaiming the praise and glory of God in His presence:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

**"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."**

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. (Isaiah 6:1-4)

The length of a king's train on his robe was an indication of his greatness and here Isaiah describes the train of God as *filling the temple*. And the great attribute of God is proclaimed not just once, not even twice, but three times – "Holy, Holy, Holy!" Isaiah puts great stress on the holiness of God. This is significant for all time but particularly in our own time when God is often seen or referred to as just another thing or being, perhaps in heaven or above us. Even the word 'God' is so grossly and indiscriminately misused and abused today, usually following the words "Oh my...". It is a gross using of the name of God in vain because we are not calling on God nor speaking about Him. It is an abuse of a treasured and great privilege given us by Jesus Himself when He told us that we could call on God as "Our Father". But God is totally and absolutely other, set apart and wholly and entirely different from us. We may think we can drag God down from on high to hear us as we make our demands but it is a grave, serious matter to approach God as one might call their dog, demanding that He come. In fact, Isaiah's description the angels have "three pairs of wings (six wings in total) covering their eyes and feet and flying with the third pair says so much about the holiness of God. Why cover their eyes and feet? Because God is so holy that even the angels could not look upon Him and their feet had

to be covered because wherever God is, the ground upon which one stood was therefore holy, so their feet must be covered as well. The priest covers himself up with vestments worn while saying Mass because he is taking the place of Christ as at the Last Supper but also because as a human being he is not acting simply in a human way with his name, age and status. He is acting as a priest of Jesus Christ. In the Book of Revelation, John speaks of the vision he sees of the angels surrounding God and who never stop praising God by proclaiming 'Holy'!

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

**"Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come."** (Rev. 4:8)

The word 'holy' in our time has suffered greatly in its misuse and has been demeaned to an extreme degree to the point where we're not even aware of what we are saying any longer. The word 'holy' is used as an adjective which precedes almost any word you can imagine to place in front of it.

BLAME IT ON BATMAN

Perhaps we can blame it on Batman, or more specifically, his sidekick Robin. When I was a child the sitcom Batman was a big hit on television. To watch it now would be laughable if not totally unbelievable and quirky with its bad drama and silly dialogue and Robin's wild and wide use of placing the word 'holy' in front of so many nouns. In fact, I did a bit of research on this only to discover that Wikipedia lists a total of 365 times when Robin used the word 'holy' as an exclamation when speaking to Batman, usually followed by "What are we going to do now?" From 'Holy agility to Holy Zorro', Robin got us in the habit of using the word in any and every application possible. Of course, today it is almost any choice word that follows the word used thrice in the scriptures to proclaim the due greatness, the sacredness and the praise of God.

God, however, does not leave the attribute of holiness solely to himself. In 1 Peter 1:15-16 we hear of God's call for us to follow in His way of holiness.

**"Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves
in all your conduct; for it is written,
'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"**

Just as when Jesus called us to strive toward attaining perfection as His Father is perfect, so God calls His followers to follow in holiness, with its same meaning in God as it is to be for us – to be set apart. Frankly, it's quite easy to be set apart in our culture. All you need do is take God's stance on almost anything in the life you live, the words you say, the positions you hold or in what you do – and you have effectively set yourself up to be set apart. You will even be laughed at for this stance if people aren't outright hostile and angry with you. I remember hearing comments about my mother when I was growing up and how a few people referred to her as "church lady", which, incidentally, was before the character featured on Saturday Night Live. Sometimes, to stand for what is right, good, moral, wholesome and holy is viewed as laughable and worthy of gossip and scorn. But Jesus did say we would know persecution because of our allegiance to Him. If we stand today for what He stood for and stands for still we are set up for insult and ridicule, but perhaps even quiet admiration and inspiration to those who might scoff at us with the crowd. That's the Christian witness we are to give simply by the way we genuinely and quietly live our lives. Could anything greater be said of a person than that he or she was or is holy? (Fr. Charles)

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tuesday Dec 6
8:30am +Zygmunt Szewczyk
Requested by the Cudney Family

Wednesday Dec 7
7:00pm +Denis Fonseka
Requested by Marie Fonseka & Family

Thursday Dec 8
8:30am Unannounced Mass

Friday Dec 9
7:30am Holy Hour
8:30am Unannounced Mass

Saturday Dec 10
3:30 to 4:00pm Confessions
4:30pm +William Thurald Thompson
Requested by Martha & Family

Sunday Dec 11
9:00am For the People

11:00am + Nora McLaughlin & Deceased Members of
Family
Requested by the Cudney Family

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
From Dec 4 to Dec 10, 22



Please Pray for the Sick

Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Ken Buchan, Jean Ferguson, Rose Flanagan, Fred Coulson, Andrew Vella

Pray for those who have died recently

Weekly Offering Nov 20 \$3659.38 (Inc PAG)
ShareLife \$38,453.00



Day of Confessions for Advent

Thursday December 15th
9:00am to 11:00am & 6:00pm to 8:00pm



Lay Carmelite meeting Sat Dec 10th at 10:30am in St. Mary's Church Hall. For further information, please call Madelyne Robinson: (705) 994-4372

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

The Masses for Christmas will be as follows:

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
4:30 pm and 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family / New Year's Eve
Saturday, December 31
4:30 pm

Sunday, January 1 – New Year's Day
9:00 am and 11:00 am

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Christmas pyjama drive: the St. Vincent de Paul is having a Christmas pyjama drive until December 18. Pyjamas can be dropped off in the church hall in the boxes and bags under the tree. The greatest need is sizes 8 to adult for both boys and girls. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

PAG – Preauthorized Giving

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) to assist you in your support of the work of the Parish through your regular parish offerings. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, the parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly to the parish account. For more information, please call your parish office.

2nd Sunday of Advent



December 4, 2022 - Living the Gospel through ShareLife

NEW: Your year-end gift will double in value! From now until the end of 2022, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$1 million.

Our parishioners' support of ShareLife is making a difference in the lives of those in need. Last year, ShareLife supporters like you enabled 21,000 people to receive affordable mental health care through family service agencies across the Archdiocese of Toronto, including our community. Our goal this year is \$45,000.00. To date we have achieved \$38,453.00. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.



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 CollingwoodSpeechTherapy.ca

Chiroprapist/
 Foot Specialist

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