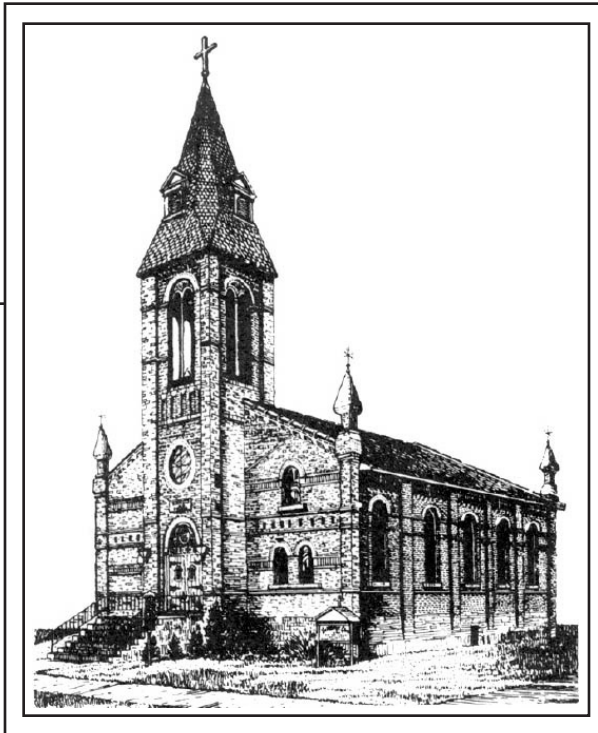


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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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

...AND SADNESS FLEE AWAY

These are the last words in our well-known Advent song "O Come Divine Messiah!" There is no avoiding, I suppose, a sense of "let's get Advent out of the way to prepare for the 25th", but the wisdom of the Church in choosing its scriptures for this Sunday reminds us to continue to be ready, to make straight our paths to the Lord. "Who" Jesus is perplexed not only John the Baptist but confronts us still as we seek to follow him.

For me, if I should ever be sad, it is not mindless games that can shake me from my mood, but rather the work of the artist who can paint the scenes I see and feel inwardly; the poet who can speak of what I sense; the composer and the musician who can lead me to think that they know what it is to feel as I feel. I turn to that great poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who wrote *Day Is Done*.

DAY IS DONE

**The day is done, and the darkness
Falls from the wings of night,
As a feather is wafted downward
From an eagle in his flight.
I see the lights of the village
Gleam through the rain and the mist,
And a feeling of sadness comes o'er me
That my soul cannot resist:
A feeling of sadness and longing,
That is not akin to pain,
And resembles sorrow only
As the mist resembles the rain.
Come, read to me some poem,
Some simple and heartfelt lay,
That shall soothe this restless feeling,
And banish the thoughts of day.
Not from the grand old masters,
Not from the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo
Through the corridors of Time.
For, like strains of martial music,
Their mighty thoughts suggest
Life's endless toil and endeavor;
And tonight I long for rest.
Read from some humbler poet,
Whose songs gushed from his heart,
As showers from the clouds of summer,
Or tears from the eyelids start;
Who, through long days of labor,
And nights devoid of ease,
Still heard in his soul the music
Of wonderful melodies.
Such songs have power to quiet
The restless pulse of care,
And come like the benediction
That follows after prayer.
Then read from the treasured volume
The poem of thy choice,
And lend to the rhyme of the poet
The beauty of thy voice.
And the night shall be filled with music
And the cares, that infest the day,
Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.**

Ah, the music of words from the poets' experience, perception, pen and mind. While sadness is real just as physical pain is real, they are not in and of themselves all powerful. We need to recognize them for what they are, temporary feelings and sensations that will pass in time. Here I am not talking about people who suffer from depression due to a chemical imbalance, as real and as awful as this can be, for these can sometimes be treated with therapy and medical treatment. But I am addressing those whose sadness comes from the helplessness of their life situations whose symptoms cannot be readily remedied with a pat on the back and a "there, there, now - everything's going to be all right". There is a need for those who are sad to face their pain and work through what they feel in order to one day be able to move on, especially when moving on seems the hardest thing to do. When, for example, someone is suffering from the death of a life-partner in a husband, or wife, or in the death of a child, while grief is real it is something to journey through towards a sense of healing so that while the one we have lost and the loss we feel will never truly go away, time itself can bring about that healing with the aid, support and love of others who have been through the same things we have.

In the Christian context, suffering is not something to be avoided or swept under the carpet as if it were all in our minds: it is rather to be confronted. Sometimes in the face of great sorrow, sadness and grief, there is a tendency to think that if we just busy ourselves with other things and other thoughts and even other people, the sadness will go away and the pain will disappear. However, this is not true and avoidance is not healthy. If we bury things or deny them, they still go somewhere and will no doubt surface again when our resistance is down. Christ tells us that in this life, in our human existence, we will experience sorrow and sadness, pain, suffering and grief, and that these will be real just as his suffering and death on the Cross were real. But Jesus also tells us that our "sorrow will be turned to joy" as His was! Yet it is not "pie in the sky when you die" that Jesus addresses here, rather it is the truth that even in this life here on earth are we meant to experience the "abundant life" he spoke of. The abundant life is not a life of ease and mindless bliss that we might project into our thoughts of retirement, but it is living in and having the perspective and truth of what life really is all about, and having this truth touch the realities of the ups and downs of our lives.

The real sadness of this world is found in those who do not know or will not allow the reality and presence of God and His unfolding plan for their lives now and always to penetrate their being. There is a new world coming and its truth is meant not only to touch but also colour our perception and understanding of this world that is, in fact, passing away. Love cannot eliminate pain but it certainly can soften it, and there is no other love that is like that of our God. We will only understand fully the redemptive character in pain and suffering when we are with the Lord forever in the fullness of the life that is to come, for then we shall see.

*O come divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day,
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away!*

(Blessed Advent! Fr. Charles)

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tuesday Dec 13
8:30am Intentions of Fr. Edgar Polotan
Requested by Ken Wright

Wednesday Dec 14
7:00pm +Denis Fonseka
Requested by Marie Fonseka & Family

Thursday Dec 15
8:30am +Jill Wright
Requested by Ken Wright

Friday Dec 16
7:30am Holy Hour
8:30am +Rosemarie Scattergood
Requested by the Cudney Family

Saturday Dec 17
3:30 to 4:00pm Confessions
4:30pm +George Stewart
Requested by Jean & Family

Sunday Dec 18
9:00am For the People

11:00am + Nick Cudney
Requested by the Cudney Family

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
From Dec 11 to Dec 10, 17



Please Pray for the Sick

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

Pray for those who have died recently

Father Wilhelm Jan Rozmyslowski,

Weekly Offering Dec 4	\$4394.00 (Inc PAG)
ShareLife	\$40,804.00



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

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

2023 Offertory Envelopes

2023 Offertory are in the hall for pick up, they are in alphabetical order. Please note that some people's envelope numbers may have changed as I ordered less envelopes to reduce the amount that are wasted every year. So please look for your name not your number. There are also envelopes for people who wish to start using them, all we ask is that you put your name and address on the envelope for the first couple of uses.

Bulletin Inserts

If your ministry has an announcement for the bulletin in December please see the **9:00am** deadlines below.

Weekend of Dec 17/18

Weekend of Dec 24/25

Weekend of Dec 31/Jan 1

Monday Dec 12th, 22

Wednesday Dec 14th, 22

Monday Dec 19th, 22

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022 - ShareLife Goal Update



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 goal can be met, but only with your help. I invite you to join today's generation of heroes by making a sacrificial gift to ShareLife. As you contemplate the blessings God has entrusted to you, please join me in giving to ShareLife to the best of your ability." – Cardinal Thomas Collins. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, or online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate

Day of Confessions for Advent

Thursday December 15th

9:00am to 11:00am & 6:00pm to 8:00pm



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