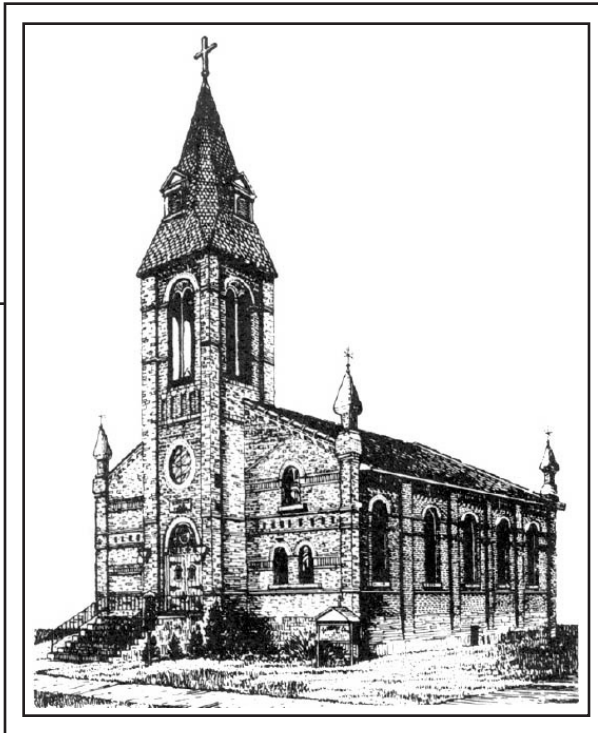


# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street  
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Tel: 705-445-1790  
Fax: 705-445-9659  
Email: [stmarysco@archtoronto.org](mailto:stmarysco@archtoronto.org)  
Web: [stmarysco.archtoronto.org](http://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](mailto: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 School . . . . .705-445-2043  
Notre Dame de la Huronie . . . .705-444-1764

**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](http://collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org)

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

## GOING TO MASS

*“When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom.” (Luke 4:16)*



I don't really know the Bible as I should, yet I am surprised just how much I do know about it having grown up Catholic and going to Mass, the time in seminary training and

thirty-years of preaching and teaching as a priest. And over the years I have picked up on the patterns in the Word of God that repeatedly are conveying truths to us about this Catholic faith we are living. Take, for example, the text above from the Gospel of Luke. Jesus went to church! It reads that on the sabbath day (for Christians, Sunday) Jesus went to the synagogue... he went to church. Surely, if anyone could be exempt from the need to go to church it would be Jesus! Yet, he went and, Luke tells us, it was his usual custom, which is to say, he went every sabbath day (Sunday, for us!). I don't know about you, but I find that fascinating and intriguing since Jesus could have clearly shown that he was somehow above the requirement and practice of worship for he is God, the One who is to be worshipped, as all worship is reserved for God and God alone, for as no. 2097 of the Catechism states:

*“The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world.”*

So, again and again we hear (if we have eyes to see and ears to hear'), as Jesus so often said, of the necessity that all Catholics go to Mass every Sunday, without exception. why? Because we are the beneficiaries of the good things God will give to us if we are faithful to him and to his First Commandment,

*“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. It is written: “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” (Exodus 20:2-5)*

Most explicit to our need, even our necessity to go to Mass each and every Sunday comes to us from the Third Commandment:

*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work.*

The Church teaches that Mass on Sunday is an obligation for Catholics, which is to say, we don't have any other options. In fact, it's a response to a commandment of Jesus, not a suggestion or an ideal or something you will finally get around to doing when you have more time. We don't really have time for anything else when it comes to what we owe God, the Creator of all that is.... and the Creator of us all. It's rather amazing that

from the Apostles and the Church Fathers and popes, people would be naturally expected, once they had come to believe in the Lord Jesus, that they would participate in the regular worship of God at Sunday Mass. The sabbath was made for us by God himself.

*The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.*

Parishioners may remember when, during one of the Sunday homilies a month or two ago, I made a 'call and response' from the congregation in asking why we go to Mass? (although when preaching about our need to go to Mass to the Sunday congregation, I'm actually talking to the wrong people). It comes from the Preface of the Mass:

P: The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts. R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. **It is right and just.**

And there, once again, we have it. Why go to Mass? Because it is right and just. It is right because it is proper to acknowledge God in the use of time and space, on Sunday and in the church. It is right because everything we have, are and are called to be comes from God. And it is just, because, as God's creatures, it is what we owe God for our lives in justice – in giving to God what belongs to him – our worship.

So, then, why do the majority of Catholics, likely 70-80%, not go to Mass? Well, when I was a kid, I think it was over 50% of people went to Mass each Sunday. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, just in the last three years after we saw the unthinkable happen – the closing of our churches universally for the first time in the history of Church, and its own inevitable fallout which now sees that since the reopening of churches, attendance is down on average 30%. (And that's 30% of Catholics who were regularly going to church each Sunday but now, for various reasons, don't.) Given a culture like our own, where faith and a place to renew it weekly and celebrate it together in the worship of God is certainly taken for granted, it is little wonder that there would be a great falling-off of Catholics from the faith. Why worship at church on Sunday when you can watch it on TV while drinking coffee and sitting on the couch in your pyjamas or from your bed? No, it is right and just to give God what is his due – our worship, our praise and thanksgiving, our all!

And who is the beneficiary of our worship of God? Us. God is God and we are not God. The fact is, God does not need us. He doesn't need our worship, our thanks or our praise because he's God. But we need God and in that God-given need it naturally should lead us to seek him out, aside from the gentle breeze, or a lush, green forest or mountain scene, where he dwells – in the sanctuary, in his Word, his feeding of our lives and souls in the Eucharist. When we do that which God has designed us to do in our weekly worship of him with others, we experience the benefits of that which we give to God. As the old saying goes: “The only things you can keep are the things you give away.” If we give God our worship we grow in faith and build up our relationship with him and one another. For God is outside of time and space but we are not. Therefore, we need a time and a space, the time being the Sunday Mass and the space being the church, our church. (FRC)

**MASS**  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tuesday Jan 31  
8:30am Unannounced Mass

Wednesday Feb 1  
7:00pm +Joe Palacka  
Requested by Rebecca & Davide Perrone

Thursday Feb 2  
8:30am +Kazimiera Obcowska  
Requested by Jolanta & Janusz Okon

Friday Feb 3  
7:30am Holy Hour  
8:30am +Claude Belcourt  
Requested by the Cudney Family

Saturday Feb 4  
4:30pm Intentions of Jean Ferguson  
Requested by The St. Mary's CWL

Sunday Feb 5  
9:00am For the People

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

**Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns**  
For the Repose of the Soul of  
Allan Mattacott  
From Jan 29 to Feb 4, 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,  
Mark Zaltar

*Pray for those who have died recently*

Thomas McCarthy

**OFFERTORY**

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 \$3110.00 (Inc PAG)



**SECOND COLLECTION**

There will be a second collection for our Building and Maintenance. On February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, & Building & Maintenance.

**Please call the office if you are interested in signing up for our PAG program.**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21, between 5 and 7 pm. In order for the Knights to prepare food and sufficient helpers we ask you to sign up for the supper, including the number from your family, on the sheets the Knights have provided at the exits of the church today after Mass. The Knights are offering this supper at no cost to all parishioners. The traditional menu consists of pancakes, sausage and hash browns with coffee, tea, and juice. We hope you can join your fellow parishioners in this mini feast before the great fast of Lent.

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