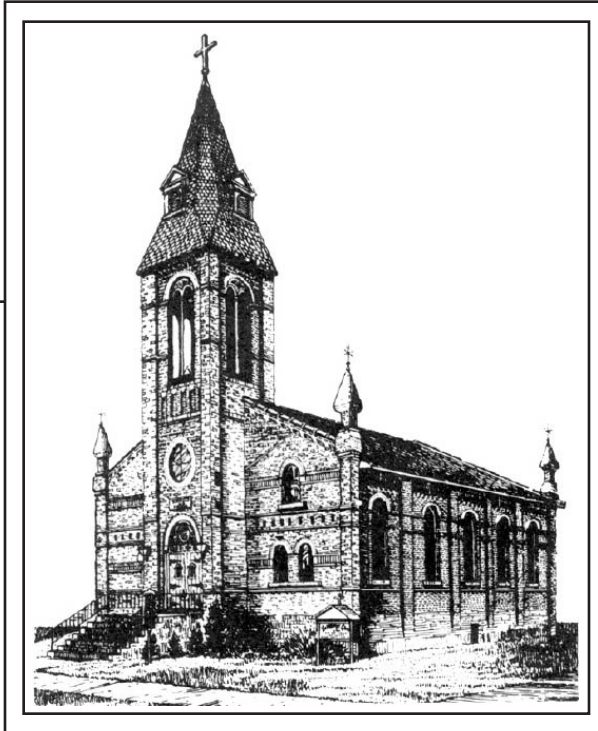


# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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: [gk5793@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk5793@ontariokofc.ca)  
Financial Secretary: [fs5793@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:fs5793@ontariokofc.ca)  
[collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org](http://collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org)

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

## Death: Thief or Messenger

Contrary to the initial fears I had in the seminary about having to one day preach, I've grown to love preaching, principally because it comes easy to me which, referencing my earlier anxieties about it, means I've been given the gift of preaching by God. This reality demands that I never take it for granted but use this gift to build up my own spiritual life and that of the body of Christ.

As I don't use notes or a script when preaching, I prepare in advance by looking at the readings to see what pops out at me as important (it's all important). Upon reflection and prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for help and light in what God is saying to us in the texts but also in our own time, I often think of images or stories that illustrate the truth and message of the Gospel which is the truth and message of the Church in every age.

I find that there is an evolution in my preaching over the course of each weekend's Masses in that the homily I preach at the Saturday 4:30 pm Mass is often different from the one I give at the 11:00 am Mass the following morning. That's because the homily I give first is also the one I am hearing myself for the first time. By the third Mass I may add a story or omit something previously said.

An example of this was last weekend (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) when I preached on the Gospel of Jesus raising Lazarus from death and back to life. I shared a story at the last Mass of Sunday that I didn't share at the previous Masses. Several parishioners commented on it so I thought I'd print it here for your reflection as the reality is that all of us will one day die and how we see death is important.

In Nursia, (also spelled Norcia), Italy, there is a monastery that had existed for centuries as the town was the birthplace of St. Benedict himself. Over time, the monastery had crumbled due to earthquakes leaving only the church standing. In more recent decades, the Benedictines decided to re-establish a monastery in that town again and the Prior appointed to head up the rebuilding and the re-establishing of the monastery of monks was an American born priest, Fr. Cassian Folsom. In an interview he gave on this Godly work he appears as a humble, quiet and gentle man with a graying beard. The interviewer asked him about his recent diagnosis with cancer and how he felt about the danger it posed to his life but also in light of his recent appointment as prior to the Norcia monastery and its rebuilding.

His words of response are both beautiful and powerful:

"We can look at death as a thief or as a messenger.

A thief comes and steals what is most valuable to us -  
and so, we are afraid.

But a messenger who comes to tell us that our Beloved is at  
the door:

well, we respond much differently, don't we?

That's the kind of choice we have to make,

is it a thief or is it a messenger?

For me, it's a messenger."

In the Gospel from last Sunday where Jesus raises Lazarus back to life, we are given the context of how the promises of Jesus to raise us back to life again in the response to our lived belief. Jesus said that "all who believe" will live forever. It's not the default of human beings to simply tumble into heaven with Jesus when

we've never sought Him, believed in Him or had anything to do with Him. Even the way we treat one another and ourselves says so much about our relationship with Christ, even if we don't profess to follow Him. "Whatsoever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did to me". And to this the people, both the righteous and the unrighteous asked, "When?" "When did we see you naked and give you clothing?" Our judgment isn't based on whether we were able to recite the Creed or pray the Rosary but what we did to the people in the world and all around us whom we can see. And the ways that we respond – in feeding, clothing, visiting, giving drink – to anyone and everyone is our lived response to doing (or not doing) the same to Jesus Himself.

Death is but a door to those who believe yet it is the door that every human being must one day pass through. Our lives are not our own in the sense that we are loaned these bodies and this collection of defined time we call our life. Whether it be long or short, well spent or wasted, in giving or taking, we will all come to that door. For the one who believes in Jesus, not merely in statement but in fact through the life we lived, it will be a short opening of that door at death to a brilliant, beautiful scene of light and peace and joy – seeing the face of Jesus. Or, it will be an opposite experience of nothingness, a great and eternal void, not imposed on us by God but chosen by us in the summation of our own lives and choices.

I mentioned in last Sunday's homily the great evil brought about by our governance in Canada that prides itself on being well advanced before other nations in providing a legal means to ending human life due to pain, suffering, loneliness, disability, poverty or for any reason you can come up with. It falls under the horrific name on a door of death called M.A.I.D, (Medical Assistance In Dying) but is nothing less than government sanctioned suicide, assisted by a doctor or 'medical professional'. It is the dark and evil bookend to abortion at the conception of life. Jesus, the Resurrection and Life calls us to life – NOW and FOREVER by our choice. Choose Life!  
(Fr. Charles)

*Man is lonely by birth,  
Man is only a pilgrim on earth.  
Born to be king,  
time is but a temporary thing,  
only a loan while on earth.*

*Like the wind in the tree,  
Man has been rather reckless and free.  
Thrown far and wide, we long to settle down beside  
the stream flowing through eternity.*

*Like the grass on the lawn,  
we will pass by the way and be gone.  
A lesson to learn, we walk but once there's no return.  
Time is always moving on.*

*Man is longing for One,  
for a song and a place in the sun,  
a home up above where every day is lived in love,  
for rest when the journey is done.*



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

Tuesday April 4 8:30am	+Min Daoust Requested by Barb & Mike Daoust
Wednesday April 5 7:00pm	+Greg Pieszchala Requested by Janine Pieszchala & Family
Thursday April 6 7:00pm	Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lords Supper
Friday April 7 3:00pm 7:00pm	Good Friday Service Stations of the Cross
Saturday April 8 9:00am 8:00pm	Blessing of the Easter Food Easter Vigil
Sunday April 9 9:00am	Easter Sunday
11:00am	Easter Sunday

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns  
For the Parishioners of St. Mary's  
From April 2 to April 8, 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, Emilie Gosselin., Mark Zalter

*Pray for those who have died recently*

Fr. Gerald Anthony Sherry, S.F.M.

**OFFERTORY**

March 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 \$3584.00 (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.

Could the person who has envelope number 150 please put your name and address on the front of the envelope or call the parish office. Thank you

**Palm Sunday**  
**April 2, 2023**



**Welcoming Jesus into our hearts by sharing our blessings**

Today is Palm Sunday. In our Lenten observance, we have been called to welcome Jesus into our hearts. Let us follow His example of sacrifice by sharing with those who need our help the most. One way we can do so is by giving generously to ShareLife. Our parish goal this year is \$43,000.00. So far, we have raised \$7632.00

Thank you for your support and for living the Gospel by providing for those in need.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

**PONTIFICAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND**

The Good Friday Collection is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Church's holy places in the Holy Land, so important to the faith of Christians everywhere, and to support the faithful who struggle to survive under political and economic oppression and persecution.

This Pontifical Collection will be taken during the Good Friday celebration on April 7 2023. Those who are unable to attend the service, or who prefer to contribute online may do so by Interact e-transfer to Canada Helps by visiting [www.commissariat.ca/supporting-us](http://www.commissariat.ca/supporting-us)

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**ST. MARY'S - COLLINGWOOD SCHOLARSHIP – 2023**

This award will be given to a Catholic female graduate who is actively involved in St. Mary's Catholic Church or a Catholic Church in her community and is continuing with post-secondary education.

The applicant must fulfill the following criteria:

- Be a Catholic female attending Our Lady of the Bay High School, or Collingwood Collegiate Institute
- Attend Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Collingwood, or a Catholic Church in her community on a regular basis.
- Be continuing with post-secondary education and be registered as a full time student starting in September of the upcoming school year, at a recognized university, college or technical institute for advanced learning.

Full information can be found on the church bulletin boards, or at Our Lady of the Bay and CCI.





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 tblanchard@collingwoodspeechtherapy.ca  
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