

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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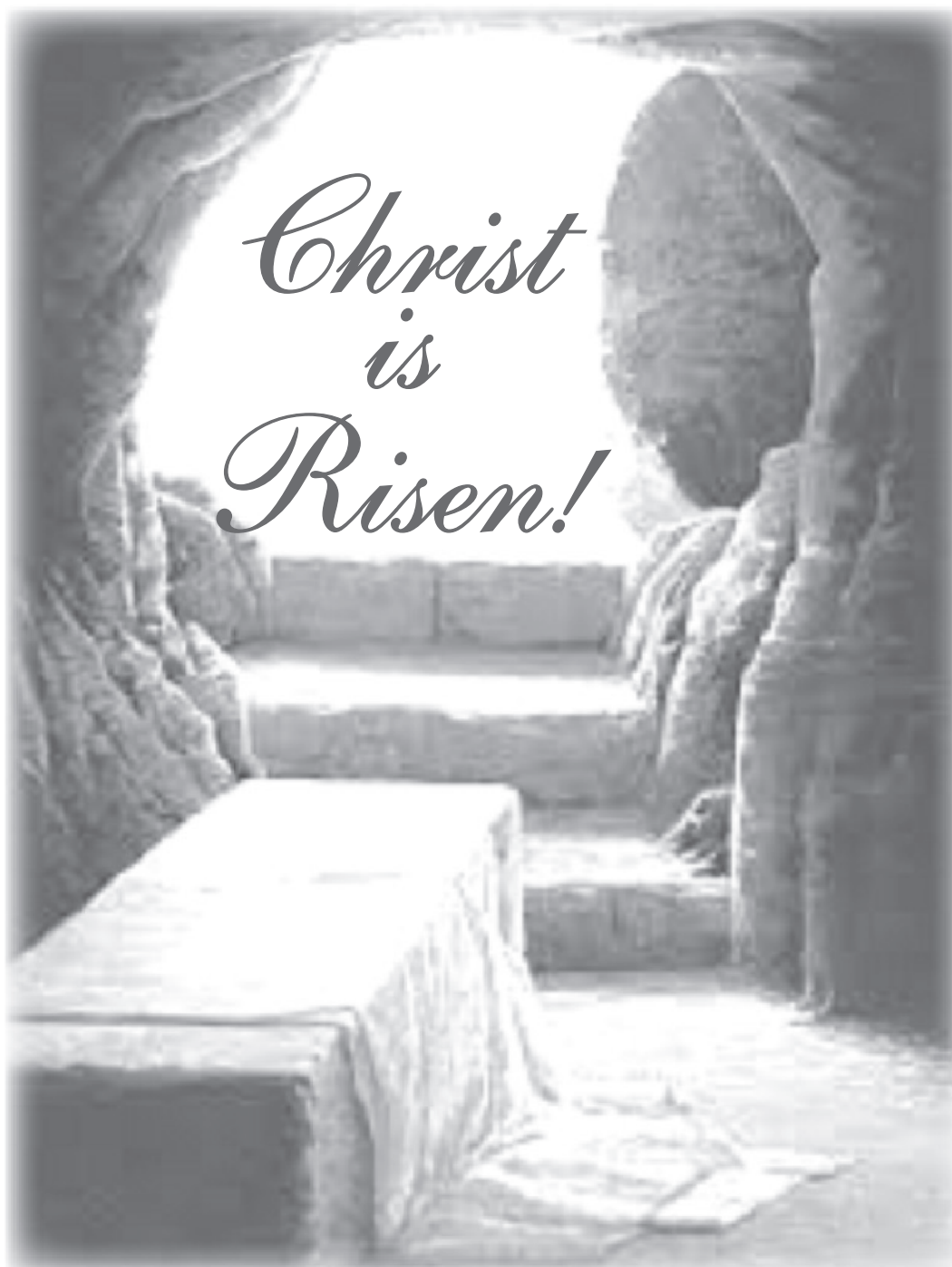
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Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

Jayne Williams, **Office Administrator**

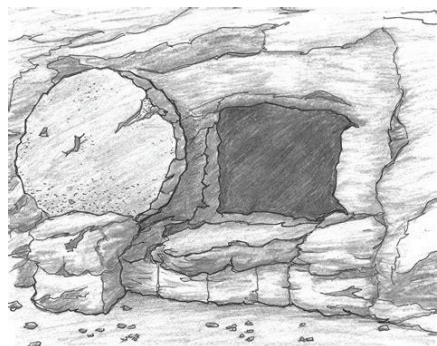
Emilie Spence, **Sacramental Co-Ordinator/Youth Minister**

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HE IS RISEN! The Reality

Fulton Sheen said that the empty tomb was “the world’s most serious wound”. I remember when I visited the Holy Land for the first time with members of the choir from St. Patrick’s parish in Markham 16 years ago. I had never been to the Holy Land before and I wanted to make sure that I wasn’t seeing the holy sites as would a mere tourist, lunching and travelling and seeing all of the prime stops visited as just another church, ruin or pile of rocks. On the day we visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre I saw how large the building itself was and there were many hallways



with mosaics and sacred paintings that led to the Tomb of Jesus. I waited in line with the others of our tour group for our turn to go inside and view the final place where Jesus’ body was placed, the fourteenth and final station of the Cross.

Because the doorway leading into the tomb is low and narrow, only a few people may enter into the small room at the same time. I and two others went in and... quite frankly found the whole thing to be quite disappointing. I never shared my sense with the others since I was a priest and what would they think if the priest on the tour found one of the holiest places in all of Israel to be.... anticlimactic?

On the bus and later that evening when I was back in my hotel room I kept thinking about why I didn’t feel something or anything when I went into the empty tomb of Jesus? What was I expecting to feel or think or sense? And then it suddenly came to me – what I was feeling (or not feeling) was the whole reality of the Holy Sepulchre. The tomb was empty! Jesus is not dead nor is He alive and residing in empty tombs and the historical places in the Holy Land to greet visitors and tourists with a nice emotion. He is alive and has been these two millennia since He rose from the death that humans had laid on Him through horrific torture, humiliation, scourging and crucifixion. He is present to the pilgrim who searches for Jesus, not only in holy sites in holy places but wherever they are, wherever they live and especially in the situations of life through which they seek Him. He IS present when we come together in His name, most especially at Mass when He comes under the appearance of bread and wine in His own Body and Blood.

WE ARE MEANT TO EXPERIENCE JESUS

For some, or perhaps even many who are Christians, the reality of this world is that religion is something we humans do on our part to create a structure for our belief in God. We haven’t experienced nor do we think we are meant to experience the real presence of God in this world. Our faith, in this sense, is our belief in the God we hope to see in the life that will follow this one. Frankly, nothing could be farther from the truth. We are meant to experience Jesus in this life. We are meant to feel His presence particularly at

times when we are not hyped up emotionally. God so often comes to us and will come to us in the quiet, when and often where we least expect to find Him. Like the time in grade one when I blurted out to my classmates and Sr. Mary Jacqueline that “I would like to be a priest” when I grew up. Unbeknownst to my teacher or the others in the room, those words I had just said led to a most awesome experience: my heart began to pound in my chest as if I’d just been running and I had this wonderful sensation as though I was being filled with cotton candy! That, I know, was a beautiful, personal experience of the Living God who by the prompting of the Holy Spirit was saying to me, this little six-year-old boy in St. John the Evangelist school in Whitby, that the words I had so innocently just uttered, were God’s will for me. Of course, in grade one I couldn’t nor was I meant to understand the full impact of what this would mean for my life. That would unfold in the months and years to come, especially when I sought to go my own way.



I have always had a strong sense that what we see with our eyes and hear with our ears is only a small part of what really is taking place when we celebrate the Mass. We see one another, the actions of altar servers and ushers, the sound of the organ and music sung, **and** the words and actions of the priest at the altar. And since they are the same each week we may be led to assume that this

is the same normal act of ‘going to Mass’. The saints tell us, however, that the angels explode in movement and the praise of Jesus when the consecration takes place at Mass. The sound of their praise is almost deafening in its beauty and power for the Real Presence of Jesus to come in the midst of His people gathered in His name, doing that very thing He instructed them to do the night before He died: “Do this in memory of me”.

For 2000 years the Church has been doing that very thing – being faithful to the command of the Lord Himself that we should present ourselves before the spiritual and real gifts He desires to give us. If we ‘miss’ Mass we are the ones who have missed out by our own inaction, for we have ‘missed’ the meeting of mere man with the transcendent reality of being in the presence of the Sovereign God of the Universe. Yes, He is risen and He is here! (*FrC*)

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tuesday April 11	No Mass
Wednesday April 12	No Mass
Thursday April 13	No Mass
Friday April 14	
7:30pm	Holy Hour
8:30am	+Barbara Petrykowski-Chyb Requested by the Family
Saturday April 15	
3:30pm	Confessions
4:30pm	+Joe Wylie Requested by the Crawford Family
Sunday April 16	
9:00am	For the People
11:00am	Intentions of the Guerrero Family

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

Theresa Cherickal, Charlie Sanchez

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
From April 9 to April 15, 23



OFFERTORY

April 2, 2023 \$4347.00 (Inc PAG)



Easter Sunday
Resurrection of the Lord
April 9, 2023



Show your love by giving to ShareLife

Jesus' love for us invites us to give to others, especially those most in need. ShareLife agencies continue to support the most vulnerable in our community through services that are only possible through your kind and generous donations.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate. A blessed Easter to you all!

Parish Goal for 2023 \$43,000.00
Amount Raised \$ 8,162.50



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.

REGIONAL MASS OF WELCOME FOR
ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO

Parishioners are invited to attend a regional Mass of Welcome taking place in the Northern Region on Monday April 17th at 7:00pm in St. Mary's Parish in Barrie.

A reception will follow the Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Please continue to keep Archbishop Leo in your prayers as he begins his ministry as our shepherd.

WARM WELCOME TO ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO

"We will love our times, our civilizations, our technologies, our arts, our sports, our world. We will love striving to understand, to have compassion, to esteem, to serve and to suffer. We will love with the heart of Christ." – Pope St. Paul VI We would like to take this opportunity to welcome His Grace, Archbishop Francis Leo! May God bless you as you shepherd your flock here in the Archdiocese of Toronto. To learn more about Archbishop Leo visit <https://archtoronto.org/archbishopleo>.

To read his homily from the Mass of Installation, <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/archdiocesan/homily-of-mass-of-installation-of-the-most-rev.-francis-leo/>

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