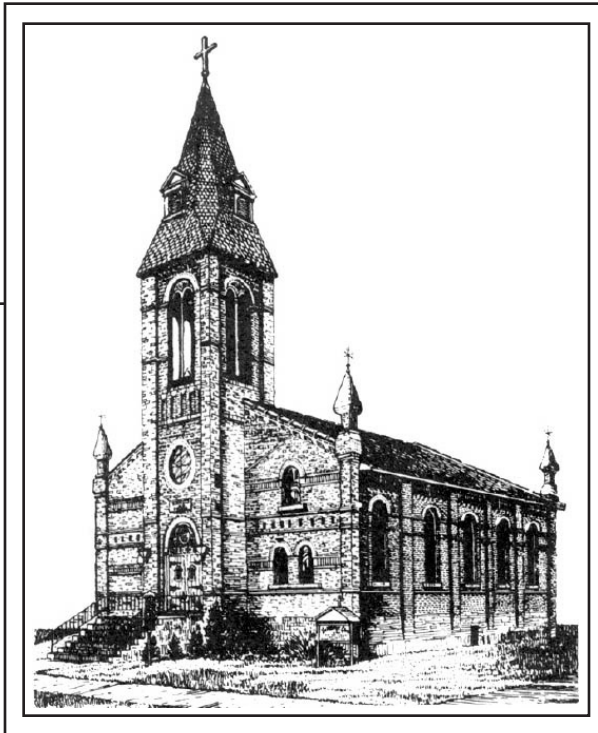


# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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)



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Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

Jayne Williams,  
**Office Administrator**

**St. Mary's Cemetery**  
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Business Office: 63 Elgin St  
705-445-1790 Ext 2

**The Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul**  
**President:**  
Michael Quinn  
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 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.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 Tuesday 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

## LONELINESS



At the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis gave an interview to a well-known atheist Eugenio Scalfari, which appeared in Italy's daily newspaper *Le Repubblica*. Like the first interview given by the Pope to the same reporter, there had been much controversy and confusion over the remarks that he had made in these seemingly "off the cuff" remarks. Like so many others in the Church who are at pains to try and

understand let alone explain what exactly the Pope had meant by some of these more recent statements, I will leave that to the experts and the evangelists to sort out.

One of the statements made which has raised eyebrows is this one: that among the most serious evils in the world today are "youth unemployment and the loneliness of the old". For the purposes of this article, I will leave the part about youth unemployment to the experts, but one of the areas I can somewhat speak to is the part about loneliness in the elderly.

I think Pope Francis has touched on something no one really talks about at all – loneliness and specifically in the aged among us. Sure, anyone can be lonely when separated by time and space from those they love due to circumstances such as going away to college or university as well as moving away from home because of a job opportunity or marriage. Yet this kind of loneliness comes with a knowledge which may soften its harshness when one knows that it won't be forever and can be remedied by circumstances of choice, like moving back. But I think now of those whose circumstances cannot be changed or remedied; those who are not loved or even remembered as they had once been.

I can just imagine the many senior citizens throughout the world, especially in large urban settings who live out their day-to-day routine all by themselves, unnoticed, disconnected, neglected and unloved. They go about the business of their lives without drawing much attention and for so many of them, not even the attention of their families and their children. Many live alone after a spouse has died and they live solitary and perhaps lonely lives filled with memories from the past and not much about their present. They are largely forgotten. Their only real companion may be their thoughts in the ever-present silence of their lives.

My own experience of seeing loneliness in the elderly has been through my mother's entry into a nursing home due to the steady ravages of Dementia which left my father unable to care for her any longer at their home. The first nursing home she was placed in was so bad both environmentally and in the great neglect of the premises and those it housed that she would most definitely would not have survived as long as she had if she were to have remained there. Bluntly, moving her from that home, at the time, saved her life. What I saw there and what I still saw later in her nursing home is the tremendous loneliness which

exists among so many of those who will live out their lives until they die without any visitation from family or friends, if they have any.

At the time my mother had been at Fairview Lodge in Whitby for over three years and while the building was dated and worn its replacement was well underway in construction and was completed by September 2014. Despite the tired appearance of the original building, I had to admit that the care my mother received had been tremendous. The staff all knew her by name and reputation as a "sweetie" especially as she was one of the few on her floor who was still ambulatory. My mother had seven children who could visit her and keep an eye on her care and condition while so many there did not.

I remember one elderly woman who was in her nineties and shared the room with my mother when she first arrived. She was soft-spoken, quiet and in a wheelchair and could only go to bed or lay down with assistance and an electric lift. On the bare wall on her side of the room was a solitary, somewhat older picture of her and her six children but nothing current. Above her bed was the nursing home identification of her place with her name. I have to say that in all the time my mother shared a room with her we never once saw anyone come to visit her – no one. She was living among others but so alone in God's waiting room. She eventually died and I wondered if she had a funeral and if she did, whether anyone came.

This woman is just one of among thousands and millions of people who, like her, live out their lives in the same mundane routine and are so alone and unloved. While they lived with the sustenance of a warm bed and three meals and a bath, they don't have *someone* who loves them. And yet this silent and brutal agony and neglect of family is seldom spoke of or written about.

Among the short list of tell-tale items Jesus spoke of which would set the stage for the final judgment as to whether a soul was welcomed or exiled from eternal life in heaven, was the line "I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me". (*Matt. 25:36*) What ever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters in this world – whatever – we do it to Christ. And the response from both the righteous and the unrighteous is the same – "When?"

To the old saying, "Charity begins at home" there is a real need for awareness of those who live among us but are so alone and forgotten. Sometimes they're in our own families or those we see every day but don't really notice. What is needed is not monumental efforts but, as Mother Teresa once said, "doing little things with great love". All people, all of us, need love – someone to touch our hand, look us in the eye and from the heart ask "How are you?", and even more, to do what we can to connect with them on a human level that is genuine and sincere.

In a world where so many are trying to find themselves there are the many, lonely and forgotten, who loved and were loved and would likely give anything if they could be heard, heard a caring voice or someone who asked them about their life. Sometimes people talk-at the elderly instead of to them. And the great thing about awareness is that it gives us no excuse not to do something for another. And, they are Jesus to us. (*Fr. Charles*)

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

Tuesday Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	7:00pm	Unannounced Mass
Wednesday Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am	Unannounced Mass
Thursday Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:30am	For all the Faithfull Departed
Friday Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30pm	Holy Hour
	8:30am	+Ken Buchan Requested by the Cudney Family
		Souls in Purgatory
Saturday Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	3:30pm	Confessions
	4:30pm	Intentions of Maureen & John Harvey Requested by Betty & Harry Cogill
Sunday Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	+Robert Ironside Requested by Pat Ironside-Mayes & Family
	11:00am	For the People

*Please Pray for the Sick*

Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Gwen Collard, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Selina Blais Hicks, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb.

*Please Pray for the Recently Deceased*

Dorothy Bedford

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns

For the Parishioners of St. Mary's  
From October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> 2023



Regular Collection	\$ 3,929.00 (inc PAG)
ShareLife	\$33,083.50
World Mission Sunday	\$ 1, 433.00



**CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING**

Liturgical Publications will setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2023 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1 800 268 2637.

**MISSALS**

Missals are available for purchase in the little's store at the back of the church, or from the parish office. The cost is \$7.00. Please put money in the box provided. Thank You.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST COMMUNION**

St. Mary's Parish will be holding Parent Information Meetings at the end of this month, October for information regarding the sacraments of both First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We will offer two dates, please choose **one**.

**Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30pm in the Church**

**Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm in the Church.**

**Only those children who are already baptized in the Roman Catholic Church are eligible for the sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church**

**Please call the parish office for further information**

**CWL**



The CWL will be holding their Christmas Bazaar on November 25 & 26.

Tickets for the popular 50/50 draw will go on sale the weekend of Nov 4/5 and following weekends. Proceeds to go to the Collingwood & Meaford Hospitals. Help us make this a success. Thank you for your support.

**SENIOR WISH**



This Christmas Senior Wish are resuming their *Bags of Love* Campaign for seniors who reside in long-term care and in the community who would otherwise not receive gifts. Also, if anyone would like to adopt a senior please contact the office and I will pass the information along.

St. Mary's will be putting a drop-off box in between the hall and the church for the month of November to support Senior Wish. A list of items will be on the bulletin board for anyone who would like to help a senior.

**SECOND COLLECTION**

There will be a second collection next weekend Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for the Maintenance and Building



**Don't forget clocks go back next Sunday**

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