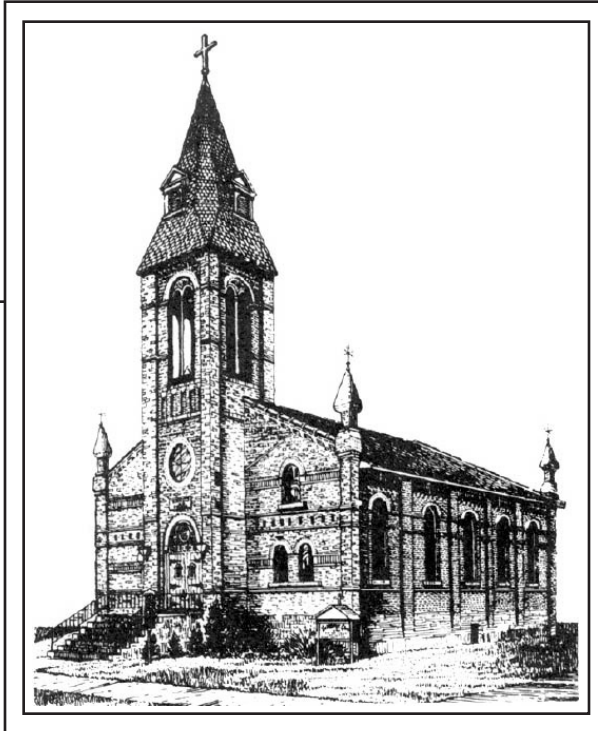


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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



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7:30 a.m.
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

Jayne Williams,
Office Administrator

St. Mary's Cemetery
401 Raglan St
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 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 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: Richard Mittermeier
email: gk5793@ontariokofc.ca
Collingwoodknightsofcolumbus.org

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

ADVENT: Getting Ready... for What?



Prior to both the ecclesial seasons of Christmas and Easter we have what could be called “preparation times” when we look to making changes within us in anticipation of the joyful season to be celebrated. These times are a kind of rehearsal for the really real event of being a loyal follower, believer and close friend of the Lord Jesus Christ. Advent,

obviously, is one of those times of preparation because, otherwise, I wouldn't be writing about it at all. Yet it deserves not only bulletin space attention but far more important focus as we prepare for Christmas. But that's not the 25th of December kind of Christmas, when all our hectic both joyful and more stressing busyness finally comes to a ready-or-not conclusion, but Christmas that is eight days of unpacking the mystery that is the Incarnation. We'd have to admit that just when the Church begins to celebrate Christmas in its true sense and nature, the world is finished with it because it has already been 'celebrating' a tinsel form of it already for six weeks or longer; the tree's been up for a month or more and we've heard wintery music with the word *Christmas* thrown in to remind us what this season is really not all about. (I've always found it curious that while Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman and White Christmas and many others are played continuously during the season of Advent, once December 25th comes you won't hear any of them the following day even though they are more fittingly winter songs – and we all know winter isn't over on December 25th, though I wish...).

So, at a time when there is much preparation in anticipation of a single day we are being asked to prepare for the coming of Christ in history, mystery and at a time we do not know over these next four weeks of Advent. Yes, Christ came *in history* which is recounted at Christmas at the very core of its meaning, but that coming hit humanity with such force that it was split in two in that even those who do not believe in God still mark their lives according to Jesus' coming 2000 years ago in BC and AD. BC represents 'Before Christ' and previous to the Incarnation all time and historical significance was and is marked by Jesus at the center of all things while AD (Anno Domini) means Year of Our Lord which tells us that Jesus' coming has split history in two and our progression in days, months and years dates back to His coming to the earth as the Messiah. So, this is rightly the first coming. Then we are told of the reality that Christ comes to us also *in mystery* in that every day, every moment in fact, calls us into a living relationship with Jesus. Our present life with Jesus is one of experiencing in the relationship His first coming has blessed us with and most especially we experience Him in the mystery of the Eucharist, though it remains a mystery how this is possible, but it is.

The Church herself is part of that mystery for she was founded by Christ and is sustained by Him until He comes again at a time and date we do not know. Many signs are observable today which

more than suggest this could be a possibility during our life time and this brings us to our final coming of the Lord – in His Second Coming. It is for this Second Coming, as Jesus had promised us, that the Church's very catechism speaks of what will take place at that time:

675 “Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies here pilgrimage on earth will unveil the 'mystery of iniquity' in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh.”

In every age, man has been and is called to preparation for a life with Jesus in this life and in the fullness of the life that is to come. No one else can promise and deliver on what Christ has revealed to us. To think of Christmas as merely a hectic paced season leading up to a day when we remember that Jesus was born of Mary will leave us with a December 25th singing of *Happy Birthday, Jesus*, and that's it and nothing more in a walk-on part of a man called The Christ. No, what Jesus brought and gives can't be returned to the store nor can we purchase it with our finite money or our wealth. It can only be accepted as pure gift, free of charge by the God who has already in our individual creation, created us for Himself – hardwired us for none other than Him and forever. If we choose not God than we also choose no forever for ourselves. Thus, the importance of preparation in the grace of this season of Advent when we accept again the God of Jesus Christ who came to the earth as one like us and who continues to come to us only upon our openness and welcome of Him into our lives, and who will come again as both Saviour and Judge at the culmination of all things. (Fr. Charles)

“ADVENT POEM”

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road
pregnant with the Holy and say,
“I need shelter for the night.
Please take me inside your heart, my time is so close.”
Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime intimacy,
the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.
Yes, there, under the dome of your being,
does creation come into existence eternally,
through your womb, dear pilgrim,
the sacred womb of your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help:
for each of us is His beloved servant never far.
If you want, the virgin will come walking down the street,
pregnant with Light, and sing!

- St. John of the Cross

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tuesday Dec 5 th 7:00pm	+Fanny & Ovidio Jaramillo Requested by Jacqueline & Terry Wong
Wednesday Dec 6 th 8:30am	Special Intentions of My Support Team Requested by Barbara Gal
Thursday Dec 7 th 8:30am	Unannounced Mass
Friday Dec 8 th 7:30pm	Holy Hour
8:30am	Special Intentions of Luke & Andrew Requested by Barbara Gal
Saturday Dec 9 th 3:30pm	Confessions
4:30pm	+Nora McLaughlin & Deceased Members of Family Requested by the Cudney Family
Sunday Dec 10 th 9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Ken Matthews Requested by Clare & Gene Bisogno

Please Pray for the Sick

Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Gwen Collard, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb, Mary Little, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Jean Van Benthem

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
From Dec 3rd to December 9th, 2023



Regular Collection	\$ 4,170.38 (Inc PAG)
ShareLife	\$34,619.50



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.

SENIOR WISH

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Senior Wish. It is such an amazing Organization. Again we did very well and The Senior Wish Association is very thankful and appreciative.



The deadline will be this weekend as they need time to sort and pack gifts to take to the shut-in's and the nursing homes.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Saint Vincent de Paul will be collecting unwrapped pyjamas to give out at Christmas starting on Dec. 2. There will be a Christmas tree with boxes in which to place the pyjamas in the church hall. As usual the demand is for larger children and adult sizes. You are free to purchase for any age and gender. Thank you in advance for your continued support.



CWL BAZAAR was a success due entirely to our members who worked tirelessly for days, setting up, pricing, selling & taking down, and those of you who brought in baking. Also a 'thank you' to our parishioners for your support. We were able to complete our list of donations (list will be in next bulletin). The winner of the 50/50 was Rita Matthews. Father Charles pulled the winning ticket!! Rita received \$260.00 - congratulations



DAY OF CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT

Wednesday December 13th
9:00am to 11:00am
6:00pm to 8:00pm



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

The Masses for Christmas will be as follows:

- Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**
4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
- Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)**
9:00 am and 11:00 am

-
- Feast of the Holy Family / New Year's Eve**
Sunday, December 31
4:30 pm
 - Monday January 1 – New Year's Day**
11:00 am

Envelopes will be available for pickup next week at the parish office, or they can be picked up when you come to Mass. They will be on the shelf between the hall and the church. **Anyone who would like to start using envelopes, please call the office and I will get a box ready.**

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