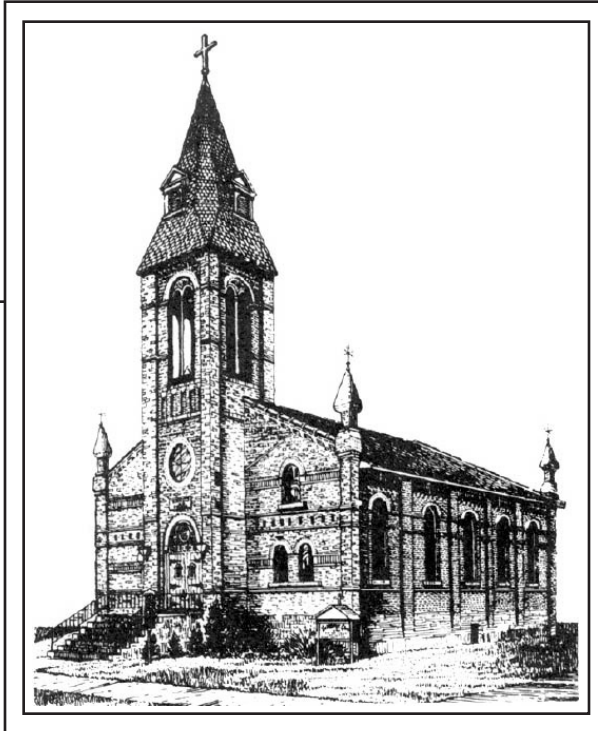


# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street  
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Fax: 705-445-9659  
Email: [stmarysco@archtoronto.org](mailto:stmarysco@archtoronto.org)  
Web: [stmarysco.archtoronto.org](http://stmarysco.archtoronto.org)



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**HOLY HOUR**  
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 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: Richard Mittermeier  
email: [gk5793@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk5793@ontariokofc.ca)  
[Collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org](http://Collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org)

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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### TOPICS FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES

*Call For Topics*



Catholicism isn't complicated but it is rich and beautiful and filled with meaning for this life journey to God and with God.

I've been writing these bulletin articles for over two decades now

and could never run out of things to talk about in this space, though I have already covered so many of the topics pertaining to Catholic faith and life in Christ. Each week I come up with various themes to cover; some I've written of before but some that I haven't as I try to address so many of the major issues and challenges of our time alluded to by the Word of God and the clear and unchanging teaching of the Church. Still, I would welcome parishioners to provide me with a question or topic you would like me to tackle in the weekly bulletin for, if it is a question or subject you have wondered about, it is likely relevant to others as well.

If you would like to suggest a topic or a question, kindly send the parish secretary, Jayne, an email and she will forward it to me. Thank you. Fr. Charles

### REAL PEACE!

Over the years, when I come upon a good article or story, I save it in my computer. Recently, I stumbled upon the following brief story, not knowing its author or where I found it. Upon first glance it reads in a rather stilted way but when you take in the whole story it makes sense and is rather beautiful in its straight forward simplicity. And it speaks of peace; real peace that was discovered through endurance and direct connection with God in that communication and union we call prayer. How fitting for this time of waiting, not just in the season of Advent but in the waiting for God in all our life, whether we are conscious of it or not. Amidst the busyness of our rapidly changing world and our place in it, we are waiting for God to show Himself, lower the veil, so-to-speak, and make Himself known. Yet ours is the God of revelation who throughout time has revealed Himself to us, which is not simply us finding Him like stumbling across some object we'd never seen before. He is the God of revelation, displaying before us not only all that He has made but all that He is – being itself, while remaining pure mystery in depths we mortals cannot plumb. He is the one and only God who wants us to see Him and know Him and yes, even to love Him – though He does not need nor requires our love or anything for He is God.

Hi, I would like to tell you a story about me. I would like to tell you a little about myself.

My name is Charles, I was born on December the 27th, 1965. As I grew up, I had a few good friends. We had a loving close family. My parents raised us as practicing Catholics. We had a lot of faith in the Lord. When I was a kid, we went to church, as far as I can remember. We always said night prayers and had devotion to the Rosary. For awhile it was cool until I became a teenager. It was at that point that I went to church only because I had to. When I reached my twentieth

year I shy-ed away from the church. I always prayed but I felt that I had no time to go to church. I did not realize at the time that there was something missing. A couple of years later it was so much better when I went back to church. I felt closer to the Lord.

I was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy when I was 18. I had symptoms when I was 13. I had many other struggles in my life. When I was younger, not a whole lot bothered me. I was happy go lucky. I took things as they came. When I was diagnosed it was no big deal at the time. I didn't imagine it would get this bad. As time went on the disease progressed and I wondered when it would stop. I never thought I would have so many limitations. My limitations are walking, talking, raising my arms, using my hands, holding my head up and swallowing. When I was younger, I took these things for granted. A few other medical issues were added to my life: from the third grade onward, I was teased and made fun of because I was different.

The biggest devastation in my life was losing my Dad.

I think I have had my share of suffering. I used to wonder when it would stop. I used to wonder what I did to deserve this; but that is wrong. It is easy to feel sorry for yourself. It is hard to offer up the struggles and pain and the crosses the Lord gives. I think the Lord has given me these crosses to bear for Him.

My Mom taught us, and I believe that the Lord only gives us as much as we can handle.

God has a plan for me and I just don't know what it is, yet.

I think the Lord wants me to accept the crosses; and, I say thank You when I am in pain and give the Lord praise and I ask Him for mercy. That is how I deal with it.

If I didn't have faith and the Lord in my life I would not be here.

I would like to tell you one more experience I had. It happened to me three times in my life. When I have a problem I pray about it, and three times I was answered before I stopped praying and I knew they were answered. You can not imagine how wonderful and peaceful it is. You can not imagine unless you experience it yourself: an inner feeling. Peacefulness. It is like, "wow!"

I hope you enjoyed my story; and I hope that my story has helped someone. (Author Unknown)

What I admire about Charles' story is that he has known hardship and knows what it is to suffer loss, both in the death of his father and also his own health challenges. Yet, he has discovered what so many will live their whole life without knowing – God and the experience of prayer that bears real fruit in his life – "When I have a problem I pray about it, and three times I was answered before I stopped praying". What a gift he has come to know in the God of Jesus Christ, moving from being a person raised within Catholicism to awareness and becoming the child of God that he is. The lavish love of God for us is truly a gift from the Lord.

What Charles is describing, in one sense, is the journey, moving ever forward toward, not a goal, but the Person of Jesus Christ. It reminds me of the lines of a song from my childhood –

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

St. Paul says the same thing when he compares the end of a



Christian's life with the folding up of a tent. Our life is meant to be seen as portable, moving and fluid and not the settling in of it, as if we were to be here forever.

*"We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."  
(2 Cor. 5:1)*

Charles' expression of the closeness of Christ to him reminds me of a truth I once heard expressed in the following way. The longest distance known to man is just 18-inches long which is the distance between the head and the heart; the distance between knowing in my head, God loves me, to knowing in my heart, God, Loves, ME!" And the sad reality is that some people might never make that short journey.

As Christmas quickly comes toward us in this season of grace (Advent) when we practice the art of waiting in active participation for the coming of the Lord, there is no question that all of us, in one way or another are looking for and need this deep peace that comes from communion with God. It is astounding that God who is outside of time, chose to come down to the earth He made and become part of it, entering into time. What a humiliating thing for God to do! And as magnificent and mysterious as that reality is to the question, "How?", the real inquiry has to be to the question "Why?" Why did He come? Why did He do this? Couldn't there be another way to save us be found in the God who, with or without a single word, wills that light exist and it does? It can only be love that would move God toward us in this way since the reality is that He doesn't need us; He doesn't need me or you or anyone or anything – He's God. He knows, however, that we need Him. We needed the Saviour who would, as the prophet Isaiah exclaimed, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence." (Isaiah 64:1) And this He has done, the Creator become part of the creation, humbling Himself to come to us, unseen, unnoticed in a barn, a stable, placed in a feeding trough. But again, why? To do for us what we could not and cannot do for ourselves. In a song that was filled with discord, Jesus is the first note of a new symphony that will resound forever. For as we say and so it is true, each time the priest breaks the Bread of the Sacred Host in the Mass, His Body was broken for us on the Cross: salvation! (Fr. Charles)

Tuesday Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> 7:00pm	+Kenny Buchan Requested by Patricia Foerderer
Wednesday Dec 20 <sup>th</sup> 8:30am	+Elaine Mullin Requested by Chris Godin & Family
	+Emma Lope & Sonya Orejola Requested by Rapunzel
Thursday Dec 21 <sup>st</sup> 8:30am	+Joe Wylie Requested by Doety Lewis
Friday Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> 7:30am 8:30am	Holy Hour +Rosemarie Scattergood Requested by the Cudney Family
	Health Intentions Bart Grudzien Requested by Mom
Saturday Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup> 3:30pm 4:30pm	Confessions +Greg Cudney Requested by the Cudney Family
Sunday Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> 9:00am 11:00am	4 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT Unannounced Mass For the People
4:30pm 6:30pm	CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTMAS EVE

*Please Pray for the Sick*

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

*Please Pray for the Recently Deceased*

Jean Van Benthem

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For the Parishioners of St. Mary's  
From Dec 17<sup>th</sup> to Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023



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