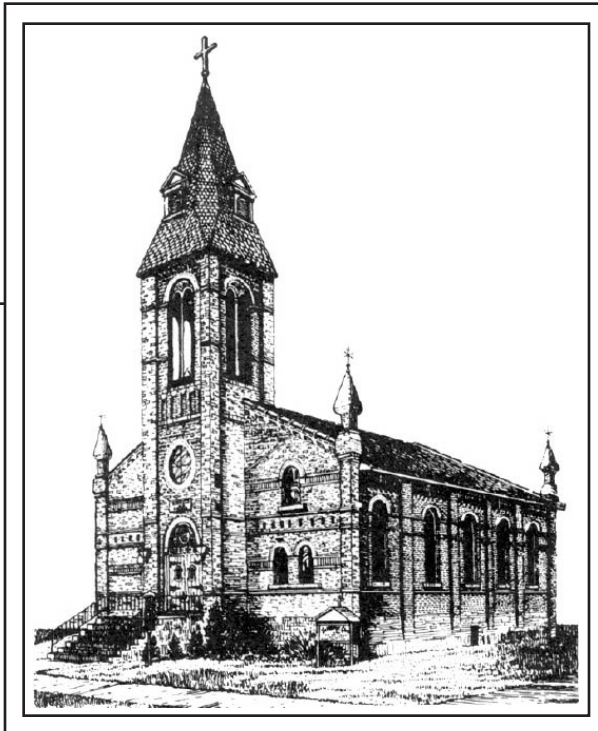


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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



**Every Friday:
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 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: Carol Johns
email: info@collewl.ca
647-241-4699

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

EXPLAINING IT ALL AWAY?

Years ago, in one of my homilies, I spent the first half of my homily time addressing a horrific 2010 earthquake that had so devastated the poor people of Haiti and I looked at the mystery of why such things happen. Of course, there is no answer as to "why" things happen that can in any way satisfy our need to ask the question. If my car runs out of gas and I ask "why?", it's meaningless. I know why it ran out of gas because I let it happen, or I didn't look at the gas gage, or I meant to fill it up yesterday and forgot all about it. There are answers to the "why's" of life that pertain to the things within our control and responsibility. A parent might ask a teenager "why" they didn't put gas in the car, but the question is really meaningless because the parent likely knows that the son or daughter has acted irresponsibly or neglectfully, and the "why" is really a form of reprimand and not inquiry.

To ask "why" life isn't fair, why terrible, tragic things happen to good and innocent people is more of a form of venting our frustration in the face of things that don't make sense. And a great deal of life's events don't make sense from the perspective of the way we would order things.

I think as children we ask the question about why someone we knew and loved and loved us, died. The whole idea of death and the reality that we won't live forever in these bodies we wear brings about a tough awareness that people die, which leads to the realization that we, too, will die. When a child asks why people have to die, they are truly seeking an answer because they are trying to put the universe together and this is one big piece of it all. The child wants to know why things are the way they are and to answer, "Just because..." doesn't cut it for the child or for the adult.

Sadly, in a world of so much unbelief and disbelief where God is largely ignored, the question "why" usually gets aimed at God in the face of tragedy and loss. We don't ask why God doesn't just crush us or make us go up in a puff of smoke when we ignore Him or neglect Him altogether. No, we tend to bring God out for special occasions like baptisms, First Communion, weddings and the like and we haul Him out to account for Himself and His strange and awful ways when calamity comes and we don't understand why.

Strangely enough, we don't ask God why He continues to love us when we can be truly horrible people, or why He showers us with so many good things like the warmth of the sun, the simple singing of a bird or the miracle and wonder of a single flower. We can take these things for granted and only wonder at the things we don't understand. To ask the question

"why" in one sense is a good and positive thing because it means that beyond our years of infancy and childhood, we are still trying to put the world together and God's place in it, and the fact of the matter is we will leave this world still with those questions. Yet that is such a wonderful thing when one considers just how beyond and unique is our God in comparison to all we see and know and understand.

In our seeking we should consider to ask why God is so good when we are not; why God shows us the greatest scenes, the most beautiful sounds and gives us minds that are capable of dreaming the impossible and entering into the mysterious. Is it not because we deem life to be good that we so desperately cling to it and are confounded when we see its loss? While we can never take life for granted and must value human life above all things, the very faith we profess assures us of a most perfect life that is to come, and in this context of living, even tragedy, grief and senseless loss contains hope because this is not all there is. When one considers that even an atheist, should their life be one long line of bliss, would be saddened by the fact that their life will come to a sudden and abrupt end at some future moment unknown to them, and after that moment - nothingness and nothing.

As a believer in the God of Jesus Christ, even while I don't and never will remotely understand life and God Himself, I am coming to know and have come to know that I can trust Jesus Christ with my very life through the living, palpable relationship I have with Him. I often consider how I would react if some terrible tragedy should happen to me or those I know and love, and how I would fare when my faith would be put to the test. I would hope that God would give me what I need at the time (and not a second sooner) just as he led Mary and Joseph one moment at a time with his protection, power, guidance and blessing.

Fulton Sheen said that we can endure any why if we know there is a Who, that is Jesus Christ, the Lord.

I have an aunt, Mary, who had MS and had been confined to a wheelchair for many years until her death in 2013. For all that she had been through, endured and had to cope with, she was a woman of deep, lived and authentic faith - faith that believes and trusts even when and especially when she knows no answer to the question "why". Her daughter, Rhonda, who was like a sister to her mom and a nurse, died at the age of 31 of an asthma attack. Her husband left her shortly after her diagnosis with MS. She lived, I know, with the assurance that while she would never know 'why' things have happened to her as they have, she knew the sublime and beautiful "Who" that most matters - God. And the beauty of it all is, I pray and believe, that she sees Him and is with Him now. And so should we. (Fr. Charles)



Tuesday Jan 23 rd 7:00pm	+Dan Lawson Requested by the Cudney Family
Wednesday Jan 24 th 8:30am	+Agatha Tawaststjerna Requested by the Holmes & McKellar Families
	Unannounced Mass
Thursday Jan 25 th 8:30am	+Mary Jobst Requested by the Cudney Family
Friday Jan 26 th 7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	Intentions of Helen & Roy Adams Requested by Christy & Family
	Health Intentions Bart Grudzien Requested by Mom
Saturday Jan 27 th 3:30pm	Confessions
4:30pm	+Katherine Cudney Requested by the Cudney Family
Sunday Jan 28 th 9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Marian Kardys Requested by the Jamroz Family

Please Pray for the Sick

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

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
In Memory of Michele Della-Gatta
From Jan 21st to Jan 27th 2024



Regular Collection Jan 7th \$3,498.00 (Inc PAG)
ShareLife \$36,675.50



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.

CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The CWL will be holding their membership drive this weekend January 20th and 21st. You may renew your membership or join the CWL; there will be members of the CWL in the Fr. Ellard hall after all the masses to help with the registration.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please don't forget to pick up your 2024 Offertory Envelopes. They will be out on the shelf in-between the church and the hall this weekend, then following they will be in the parish office for pick up during the week. **Anyone who would like to start using envelopes, please call the office and I will get a box ready.**

PAG – PREAUTHORIZED GIVING

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) to assist you in your support of the work of the Parish through your regular parish offerings. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, the parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly to the parish account. There are various benefits of participating in pre-authorized giving, both for you and for your parish.

- Advantages for you:
- The convenience of having your offering automatically contributed to the parish.
 - Knowing you continue to support the parish even when you are away
 - Regular, dependable contributions to the parish.
 - Reduction of cash on hand.
 - Reduction of paperwork. For information on how to enroll, please contact your parish office.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights of Columbus Council 5793 here at St. Mary's are planning to host a Shrove Tuesday supper in the Father Ellard Hall on Tuesday February 13, 2024. In order for this to work, we will have a signup sheet at each of the weekend masses beginning three weeks before Shrove Tuesday. This event will be a free will offering. We will need your commitment in order to prepare the proper amount of food and helpers for the evening. You will hear more about this as we get closer but, in the meantime, mark your calendars and save the date for this long-awaited event

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