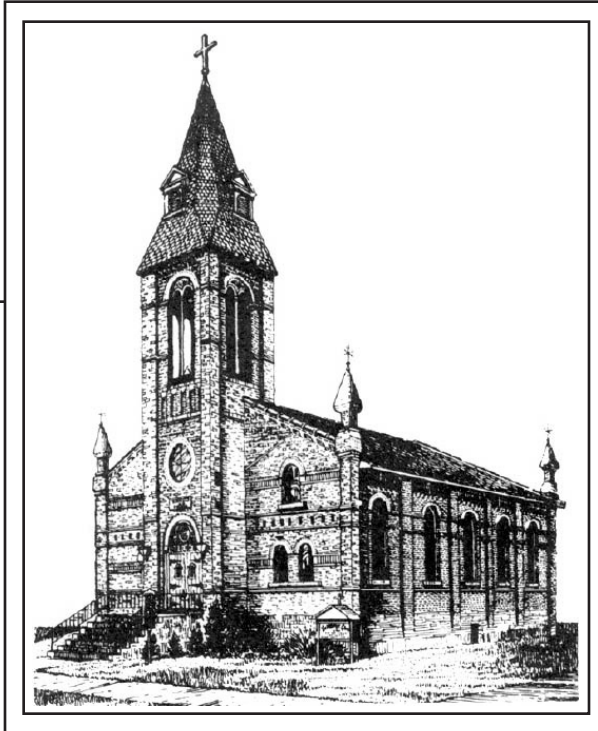


# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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)



**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  
[ssvpcollingwood.ca](http://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: Carol Johns  
email: [info@collewl.ca](mailto:info@collewl.ca)  
647-241-4699

## The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree

Grand Knight: Richard Mittermeier  
email: [gk5793@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk5793@ontariokofc.ca)  
[Collingwoodknightsofcolumbus.org](http://Collingwoodknightsofcolumbus.org)

## The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

Faithful Navigator: Domenic Sanfilippo  
705-445 7615

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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You may remember a while back when in one of my Sunday homilies I spoke of the danger of assuming that those people we've known and loved who have died are in heaven, for in so doing we will not only cease to pray for their souls but will not deem it necessary because, they're in heaven. A few years ago, (Jan. 27, 2020) an online article appeared on [onepeterfive.com](http://onepeterfive.com) by a Ken Foye who teaches an English Writing, Reading, Presentation, Discussion and Conversation class in Japan....

### MY DYING WISH:

#### Don't Canonize Me at the Funeral

I'm not planning on dying any time soon. I'm nearly 53 years old, and life expectancy statistics tell me that I have at least another 20 to 25 years left on this Earth. And research shows that people of faith tend to be healthier and [live longer](#) than those who don't — about seven years longer, in fact, according to [one study](#). That's not the reason why I believe, but it is a factor in my favor.

But just in case things don't work out that way, there's one temporal affair I'd like to set in order right now. It involves my interment rites.

Simply put, I don't want to be canonized at my own wake or funeral Mass.

I'm putting it in writing now — no milquetoast platitudes about how "he's in Heaven now" or "he's in a better place." This is a person's soul we're talking about — namely, mine — and it is not the time for such fluffy sentimentalities. This "eternal spiritual destination" stuff is far too serious business for that.

Nothing to the effect of "he's in Heaven now" is to be said at my wake service; during the homily or any other part of the funeral; at any social gathering prior to my funeral or after it; or at any other time in the days, weeks, months, years, or even decades following my death. Unless there are miracles occurring that are clearly and undeniably occurring due to my intercession, or unless I undoubtedly died a martyr for the Faith, nobody knows that I'm Heaven.

Well-meaning but hasty thoughts about me being in Heaven are not going to help my soul in the slightest. Instead, I'm asking now — and will repeat this plea as many times as I have to, until I die — that everyone who remembers me assume that I am in Purgatory. And that means I will need prayers, and lots of them — not pronouncements of canonization, including ones that are meant to make my wife feel better, assuming that I "check out" before she does.

It's a grave mistake to automatically assume that someone who's died is definitely in Heaven now. That may seem unkind or heartless, but in fact, it's uncharitable to assume that someone is already "set" eternally and that he doesn't need our prayers anymore. That's what "canonizing" someone by saying "he's in Heaven" or "he's in a better place" amounts to. It's an act of concluding that we don't need to pray for him.

What is Purgatory? The Catechism ([no. 1030](#)) explains it thus: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." It goes on to say that Purgatory's purpose is the "final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" ([CCC 1031](#)).

Every soul in Purgatory will be admitted to Heaven eventually — with the help of us Catholics here on Earth, which is why the Church

has always stressed "the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture" and calls for "almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead" ([CCC 1032](#)).

Is praying for the dead still a priority in modern Catholicism? Do we Catholics as a group even believe very strongly, or at all, in Purgatory anymore? The answer to both questions seems to be "not really," given the [frequent habit](#) of "canonizing" those who have died at their own funeral Masses, with the aforementioned "he is in Heaven now" declarations and the constant "better place" references.

Do we think it's just too unpleasant for many of us to imagine that our relatives, friends, and loved ones are suffering in Purgatory? We shouldn't think that way; instead, we should look at the bright side. Purgatory isn't a pleasant place, but it sure beats being in Hell — which is not only far more unpleasant, but is, unlike Purgatory, also eternal. And the suffering that exists in Purgatory has a purifying point to it, one from which God draws goodness and beauty. Not to mention our salvation.

One priest, in a [funeral homily](#), analogized Purgatory to mining for precious metals. Only with a furnace can gold or diamonds be separated from the useless ore in which they're found so that they can be made perfect and pure. Without the furnace, the metals couldn't be made precious; likewise, without Purgatory, it can be reasonably argued that few of our souls could be admitted to Heaven, where Scripture tells us nothing unclean is allowed (Revelation 21:27).

Think about it: if we die with no mortal sins on our souls, and even if we've made the best confession possible right before death, how many of us would be so free from the effects of or attachments to sin that our souls would meet Revelation 21:27's requirements? It's reasonable to believe that not many of us would qualify. Even the non-Catholic 18<sup>th</sup>-century literary luminary Samuel Johnson, "[arguably the most distinguished man of letters in English history](#)," saw this: asked about the Catholic belief in Purgatory, Johnson [said](#), "It is a very harmless doctrine. They [Catholics] are of opinion that the generality of mankind are neither so obstinately wicked as to deserve everlasting punishment, nor so good as to merit being admitted into the society of blessed spirits; and therefore that God is graciously pleased to allow of a middle state, where they may be purified by certain degrees of suffering."

So there it is — Purgatory, not Heaven, is what we should be thinking about first when someone we know passes away, even a close family member or friend, because there's every good chance that his soul will be in need of purification there. Just as we should not implode an old building until we know absolutely that no one is inside, we should err on the side of caution when we are not sure that someone who has died is in Heaven. Souls in Heaven don't need our prayers, but those in Purgatory do, and that's where we must presume a departed soul is — again, absent a clear-cut case of martyrdom for the Faith or miracles due to the person's intercession.

So, when I die, please pray for me — don't canonize me. Do I hope to go straight to Heaven after my time on Earth runs out? Of course I do, but unless they know for sure that I have, I hope people don't bet on it. That's why I offer each of the individual prayers in my rosary for one soul in Purgatory. I ask that others pay it forward after I die — or in this case, maybe I should say pay it backward — by assuming the very real possibility of my being in Purgatory, and thus praying for my soul's release into the eternal glory of God's Presence.



**MASS** *SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS*

Tuesday Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	
7:00pm	Intentions of the Guerrero Family
Wednesday Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	
12:00 Noon	+Kazimiera Obcowska Requested by Jolanta & Janusz Okon
7:00pm	Unannounced Mass
Thursday Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	
7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	+Monique Talbot Requested by Marcia & Hector Hickey & Family
Friday Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	
6:30pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:00pm	Health Intentions Bart Grudzien Requested by Mom
	Unannounced Mass
Saturday Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	
3:30pm	Confessions
4:30pm	+Agatha Tawaststjerna Requested by Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Sunday Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	
9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Patricia Fennessy Requested by Denis Fennessy

*Please Pray for the Sick*

Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Mary Little, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Kaz Watroba, Stan Faria, Innocent Mwendalubi Malwa.

*Please Pray for the Recently Deceased*

Rosemary Martin, Mrs. Mariam Salib

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns  
For the Intentions of  
Tina & Angelo Contursi & Family  
From Feb 4<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>



Regular Collection Feb 4: \$4513.00 (Inc PAG)  
Building & Maintenance \$2432.00



**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.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



This weekend is the last chance to Sign up for the Knights of Columbus Shrove Tuesday Supper. The sign-up sheets are at each entrance of the church. All that is needed is name and number of people. Very important so the Knights have enough food. This is a free will offering, and we look forward to seeing you at this very popular event.

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 11, 2024**



**Announcing the 2024 ShareLife Campaign**

As we approach our first ShareLife Sunday collection on March 17, it is essential that we come together in compassion to meet our Parish Campaign goal of \$14 million, addressing the growing needs in our communities.

By reaching this goal, our agencies will continue to:

- Offer walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues
- Help victims of domestic violence
- Ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten
- Deliver food to children in developing countries
- Form priests and deacons who will ministers in our parishes

Your support of ShareLife makes these programs possible, among many others. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

**FREE CATHOLIC ESTATE PLANNING WEBINAR**

Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Learn: How to avoid problems: in your Will, in the Powers of Attorney, and through proper Estate Trustee selection: How to create your own legacy: About our Catholic traditions around cremation, burials and funerals.

**TO REGISTER:** follow this QR link: <https://QRCO.de/WebFeb24> or send an email to: [Development@ArchToronto.org](mailto:Development@ArchToronto.org) and write "webinar February 24" in the title line + your name(s) in the body of the message

**Kindergarten Registration at SMCDSB**

Is your child turning 4 in 2024? If so, it's time to register for Kindergarten! There is something truly unique and special about learning that is rooted in faith and spiritual growth. It is a blessing that the youngest members of our parish have the opportunity to grow in spirit and faith within a Catholic school community. Catholic schools offer distinct faith-filled learning experiences, with a combined focus on academic, spiritual, social and emotional growth. Together, our Catholic schools and our parish community will guide children in their ongoing growth in faith. We encourage parents who want to register their child for Kindergarten to visit the website at [smcdsb.on.ca](http://smcdsb.on.ca) for welcome videos and registration information

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