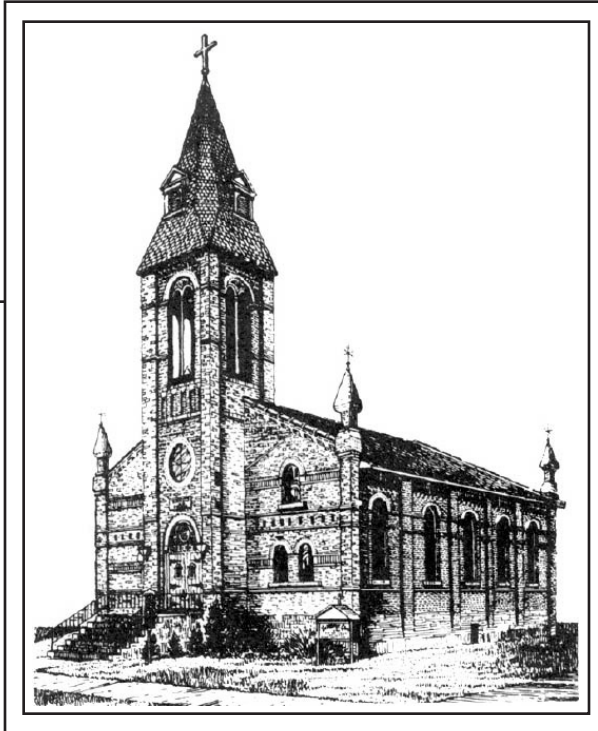


# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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)  
[Collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org](http://Collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org)

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

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### CONVERSION



Conversion is a very serious and life altering thing when you think about it. Becoming a Catholic. It's really not about a quick decision or a change that has ulterior motives, but rather comes from a moved and discerning heart and mind that says, "I *must* look into this Catholic Church thing". It is a pull from above, as is every vocation and summons to follow Jesus, and it is a response also from the Lord Himself that we follow Him as a Catholic.

Conversion to Catholicism comes in many shapes and sizes. For some it is a move from a life without any religious affiliation at all. Others, on the other hand, may have dipped their toes or been born into other Christian denominations over time and have, for some beautiful reason, been attracted to the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith. Many say that they already knew Jesus but came to recognize the Catholic Church as the fullness of the Truth that is Jesus in the Church Christ Himself founded on Peter, the Rock. They felt drawn, called.

Our parish of St. Mary is blessed with three people who have felt that tug to consider Catholicism and have approached with keen interest not only the idea of conversion but the process by which it is realized – RCIA, (*Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*). It is rightly called a process in that over time and through ongoing discernment, the individual soul learns of Catholic truth in its approach to God's revelation of Himself to mankind through all time. The process of learning goes from general questions to specific ones, like Who Is God? Who Is Jesus? What is the Church? What Is Sin? What Are the Sacraments? Who Is Mary? Who Are the Saints? What is Prayer? What Is the Mass?

Our three RCIA members are Shelley Mendes, Jordan Araujo and Evan Euteneier. Shelley was baptized into a Protestant denomination as a child, married a Catholic and raised their

children in the Catholic faith, and even though she attended Mass here at St. Mary's regularly, had not become a Catholic. I dare say that Shelley was being formed in the pews in the sense that she was, through Mass attendance, exposing herself to mystery and lived Catholic faith, and teaching. When I announced the RCIA process last fall for anyone who might be interested, I specifically tapped her on the shoulder and invited her to consider RCIA, to which she quickly and gladly responded with a 'yes'. As Shelley is already baptized, she is a 'candidate' in the RCIA process.

Jordan is a young man who one Sunday last June appeared at the 9:00 Sunday morning Mass, dressed in a suit and tie.

[I suppose he wasn't aware that Catholics no longer dress up for Mass and that suits were not acceptable. One only need to dress like they were ploughing the back 40 or going to the beach, to worship the Sovereign God of All Things who actually comes to St. Mary's at every single celebration of the Holy Mass.] And Jordan came to Mass every Sunday after that first time in June, wearing that suit. Let me just say, I LOVE THAT SUIT. He came looking for Jesus and got dressed up for it. Beautiful. Jordan had been searching, as do we all, but basically had no religious background to draw from outside of things he had read. He wasn't baptized. But for some reason, he arose one bright and sunny June morning last summer, put on his suit and tie and came to St. Mary's for Mass – his first time in a Catholic church. And I was blessed to have been able to meet him and speak with him afterward which led to talking with him every Sunday and the eventual idea of RCIA. Jordan is a 'catechumen' who is approaching baptism and full initiation in the Church at Easter.

Evan came to Mass (the 9:00 o'clock) one Sunday many months ago. I noticed him because he is fairly tall. After Mass, I was speaking with a few parishioners and saw that he was waiting to speak with me. He told me that this Mass was his first time in a Catholic church and that he had so many questions. I suggested we meet at some point to discuss these, which we did. Evan had been baptized Christian ten years before but was being drawn to Catholicism in reading St. Augustine and others and felt somehow that this was the true Church. He joined RCIA as well and has not missed a single Sunday 9 am Mass. Evan is a 'candidate' in the RCIA process.

These three people, each with their unique and individual journey to a time and place in their lives when they are seriously considering sacramental life in the Roman Catholic Church, are such a blessing to me and to our parish because their journey is my journey, our journey. **Please pray for them** as they approach, with us, the Easter Sacraments of Christ.

**"If you wish to convert anyone to the fullness of the knowledge of Our Lord and His Mystical Body, then teach them the Rosary. One of two things will happen; either they will stop saying the Rosary or they will get the gift of faith."**

(Ven. Fulton J. Sheen)

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

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

Tuesday Feb 20 <sup>th</sup> 7:00pm	+Ken Buchan Requested by Mary Thompson
Wednesday Feb 21 <sup>st</sup> 8:30am	+Charles Henry Graham Requested by Kimberly & Richard Doherty
Thursday Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> 7:30am 8:30am	Unannounced Mass Holy Hour +Janina & Andrzej Gal Requested by Mary Cudney & Family
Friday Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6:30pm 7:00pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS Health Intentions Bart Grudzien Requested by Mom
Saturday Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> 3:00pm 4:30pm	Unannounced Mass Confessions +Agatha Tawaststjerna Requested by Dolores & Brian Rae
Sunday Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> 9:00am 11:00am	For the People +Virginia Coutts Requested by Clare & Gene Bisogno

*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*

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 11<sup>th</sup> \$3712.00 (Inc PAG)



**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.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024**

There will be two opportunities for parents to attend (with their child candidate) One of the two following Information/Registration meetings, which best suits your schedule:

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 at 12:30 pm in the church**

OR

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 at 7:00 pm in the church**

**WHAT TO BRING TO THE INFORMATION / REGISTRATION MEETING**

Your child candidate

A copy (not the original) of your child's Roman Catholic Baptismal certificate (eligibility for sacraments in the Catholic Church are only to those who are baptized in the Catholic Church, proven by certificate).

\$50. Registration donation

The completed Registration Form – go to our parish website and download the form, fill it out and bring it to the parent information meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

**February 18, 2024**



**Support our vulnerable youth through ShareLife**

In this time of Lent, we ask you to think of our brothers and sisters in need – especially our vulnerable youth who call the streets their home.

“Your gift ensures youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness have access to individualized support and variety of programs and services to meet their complex and diverse needs,” says Mark Aston of Covenant House Toronto. “With your caring support, youth have a safe space to turn to and a supportive team to help them plan their own path.”

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](https://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 SMCD SB**

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](https://smcdsb.on.ca) for welcome videos and registration information.



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