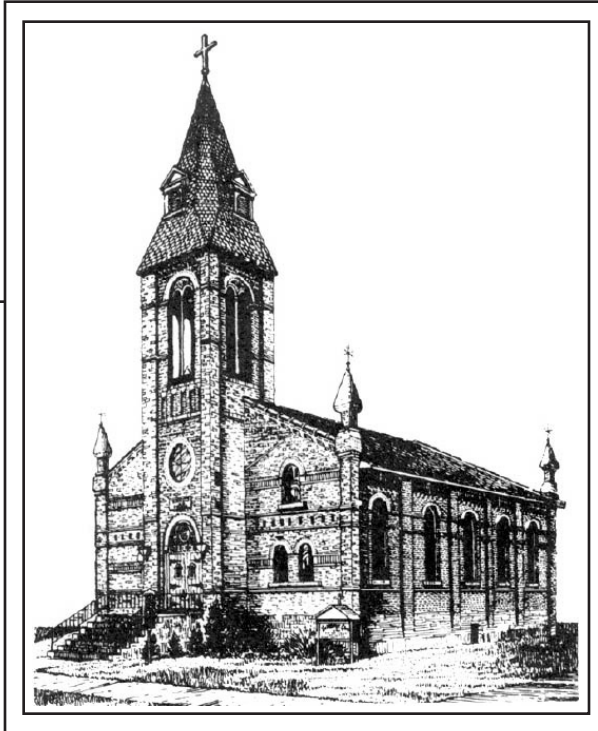


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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



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
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
Collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org

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

MASS : OBLIGATION or OBSTACLE

On the First Sunday of Lent I spoke about the Catholic obligation to attend Mass each and every Sunday and holy day of obligation and that it is mortal sin to miss Mass, even just once, unless we are seriously sick or for a serious matter. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) tells us:

CCC 2177: The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. "Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church."

There are 2 holy days of obligation in Canada; January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and Christmas Dec. 25.

While there are other days named in the Catechism as holy days of obligation, in Canada, all of these are moved to the Sundays.

Why would I as a priest need to speak of it in a homily or write about it in the bulletin? Well, because many Catholics just don't know it and no one ever told them about it. Even when I was a child, we went to Mass every Sunday as a family of 9 because our parents forced us to; all that was needed for us to set the pattern in our lives. Our parents knew what we didn't know but learned by the practice. No matter what, rain or shine, playing with friends or by invitation to join in activities with neighbourhood kids, we had to go to Mass first. On Christmas mornings, we couldn't eat much less open presents until we had cleaned up and dressed up for Mass and went to church. It only requires a generation to drop something that was passed on and generations of 'Catholics' will not only miss Mass but won't have any qualms about doing so.

Sometimes, I think, telling Catholics that they have an obligation to go to Mass rings hollow if they assume they can pick and choose the teachings they like from the ones they don't. G.K. Chesterton, that great convert to Catholicism, once said:

"Men do not differ much about what things they will call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable."

And that's just it. There are things that we all would say are evils, like the taking of an innocent persons human life. But then in the case of a child in the womb, with the changing of a word here and there, we say that it's not a human life and, therefore, it's excusable. It's reproductive health care and rights. So, humans can agree that there are evil acts but we are willing to allow them if we can come up with an excuse to do so. M.A.I.D. (medical assistance in dying – vomit inducing words) is the excusing of the long-held abhorance of human suicide for ones right to choose to stop living and opt out of this word. We need to re-center ourselves back to the standard of God which tells us our lives do not belong to us and, therefore, are not for the taking by the doctor who attends or the soon-to-be-deceased person who, ignorant of God's commands or in full knowledge of them, believes that we are all autonomous, aided by government that encourages this evil act under the banner of 'health care'. It's neither health or care.

Mass is the summit of all Catholic faith and it is the source of God Himself who, through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the words of consecration of the priest and the actions of his hands, becomes present, visibly present with us on the altar in Body and Blood. Therefore, it makes perfect sense that it would be an affront to God not to come before Him, blessed as we are to even be invited to do so, and to pay Him our homage, praise, thanksgiving and worship, for He is God, the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. From the Cross, Christ did not project His permission to sin just because we didn't know. He begged His Father, our Father, to forgive us for we don't know what we are doing. Therefore, the start to the remedy must be knowledge; for parents and Catholics to inform others, particularly those in our families and who are close to us, that it is mortal sin, serious, grave sin to miss Mass. And I dare say that likely the majority of Catholics in the world and in Collingwood who infrequently or never attend Mass have no idea that their immortal souls are in serious danger because of this great, repeated and passed-on fallacy that says "you don't have to go to Mass every Sunday", as if it were somehow a logical, sensible reality. It is not.

I think everyone would assume that when something is a command, we must comply, particularly when the one who issues the command just so happens to be God who created all things and set down laws that must be obeyed. The Third Commandment, in the first three which pertain directly to what we owe God, is: **"Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it."** (Ex. 20:8)

All of the commandments of God must be taken with the greatest seriousness and, therefore, to choose to miss Mass without a just reason, would rightly be considered a mortal sin. How can we treat as a suggestion or of human origin what God has made known to us as a clear command through His living Word? And it follows that if the summons is a command, what should be the consequence of our failure or refusal to obey it as well as to pass this on to our children and grandchildren? Once again, it is our lack of catechesis that is leading us and others to be and remain blind, deaf and ignorant to the teachings of Christ Himself.

Jesus went to church, in the sense that He went to the temple, the center of prayer and worship of God for the Jewish people. In the second of the three temptations Jesus did battle with, was the devil's citing of what he believed was his to bestow: the kingdoms of the earth, which he would give to Jesus if He would but worship him, the lowly, detestable creature. Our Saviour responded: Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him. (Luke 4:5-8) It is right and just. (Fr. Charles)



Tuesday Feb 27 th 7:00pm	+Mary Villa Requested by the Cudney & Kemsley Family
Wednesday Feb 28 th 8:30am	Special Intentions of Wanda Chodynski Requested by Gal & Jagielski Family
Thursday Feb 29 th 7:30am 8:30am	Unannounced Mass Holy Hour +Grzegorz Strzyzewski Requested by Anna & Vern Zoller
Friday Mar 1 st 6:30pm 7:00pm	Unannounced Mass STATIONS OF THE CROSS Special Intentions Luke & Andrew Jagielski Requested by Mom
Saturday Mar 2 nd 3:00pm 4:30pm	Unannounced Mass Confessions +Agatha Tawaststjerna Requested by the CWL
Sunday Mar 3 rd 9:00am 11:00am	Unannounced Mass For the People +Nancy Bisogno 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, Albert Sant & Tracy Rivers.

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Fr. Joseph Kwok Cheung, Bridget Nusca & Catharine St. Amand

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



Regular Collection Feb 18th \$4278.00 (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.

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 25, 2024

Show your love through ShareLife



ShareLife Sunday is March 17. Our parish goal for this year's campaign is \$40,000.00

Through your kindness, over 40 Catholic organizations and social service agencies can help marginalized members of our community. No one is turned away due to inability to pay. This is all possible through your support.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

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 for welcome videos and registration information.

A WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

service will be held this year at All Saints' Anglican church in Collingwood on FRIDAY MARCH 1st at 2PM. Please join us at this service that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to pray for others around the world. This year's service was written by the WDP Committee of Palestine. All are welcome

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 RAFFLE

In support of Father Lally Council 5793
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- \$100.00 for 300 tickets
- \$ 50.00 for 125 tickets
- \$ 20.00 for 40 tickets
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Check out the poster on the bulletin board where you can scan the code to buy tickets, or go onto the <http://collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org/> website for further information.

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