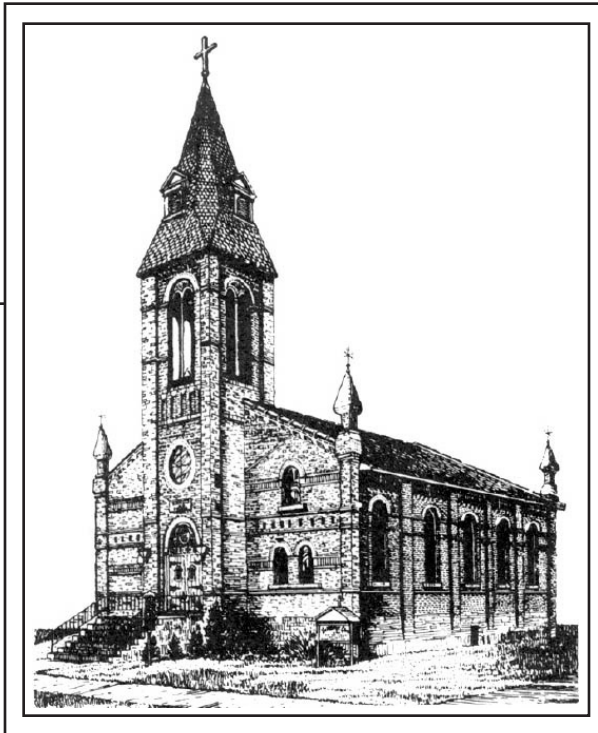


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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



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
Collingwoodknightsofcolumbus.org

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

Faithful Navigator: Domenic Sanfilippo
705-445 7615

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE.... UNTIL IT IS.

We are now entering the 5th Sunday of Lent which is past the midway point of this penitential season and next Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week with Palm Sunday. Perhaps you may find yourself totally unprepared for Lent let alone Easter and you're saying to yourself, "I haven't done anything since Lent began". But I'm here to remind you that there's hope. It is never too late to renew your faith in a faith that is renewable. Lent is for the benefit of the people of the earth, not heaven, and there is still time to do the work Lent calls us to do within ourselves: to fast, to pray and to do works of charity.

Why is it not too late if Lent is the 40 days plus the Sundays? Because the call to conversion, repentance and addressing within ourselves those things that must be stripped of and which lead us from God, still count

whether it's Ash Wednesday or Palm Sunday. The scriptures always put a proper emphasis on 'today'. We don't have a tomorrow as it's always in the future and we cannot live there. We each have one day – today, our vantage point on our own lives before God if we are willing to take an honest look at ourselves, our habits, our sin, our selfishness, our weakness and our world. Let's face it, there are not a lot of institutions and people who are living well the life of a disciple. There is much company in the self-centered life and the lived sense that this world is all there is. And you've heard me say in some homilies that even many of those Catholics who profess belief in Christ live with one foot in the Church and one foot in the world.

The simple, straight-forward guidance of the readings of Ash Wednesday each year provide us with the right way to address with introspection the areas of our life that are in need of a spiritual overhaul by us, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin but also comforts us and bolsters us in the attempt to repentance. We cannot change that which we are not aware of and thus we need divine help to uncover within us that which God sees as our hinderance to living with Him in right relationship. The standard of comparison is not our neighbour but Christ Jesus Himself who is our model of holiness and our Teacher in the ways of faith. His commands are no longer written on stone tablets, as Jesus Himself said, but written on human hearts. The Saints and Martyrs of the Church are also great models for us as we look to their own struggles and victories over their own vices and sin.

FASTING



Fasting means to go without something – a meal, a luxury, something we are fond of in our tastes that induces some level of hardship in order that we might draw our attention to the fact that emptying ourselves of self interest and self desires creates a space – for God to fill. and this is the point of "giving up" in order that we might be "filled up" with God!

However, Lent should never be reduced to merely material things or food but with what we are willing to take on. A decision to go out to another with whom we do or don't desire reconciliation or forgiveness or to someone who needs our forgiveness is far more important than bread or money because it pertains to relationships which are part of the great commandment of Jesus to "love one another".

ALMSGIVING



This is an admittedly strange word which only seems to appear in the scriptures referring to giving money to the needy. All of us know, however, just how many hands there are reaching out in legitimate need for that commodity of trade which allows things unattainable to the poor to

be purchased. Jesus told Simon that "the poor you will have with you always", which isn't in any way, shape or form to be construed as Our Lord's prediction that poverty among people will be a norm of life among humans. Rather, Jesus, knowing the human heart, knew that there is this part of us that wants to hold on to things, to covet and to not share our goods, our money, our 'stuff'. Babies come into the world with their little hands clutched together as if to suggest that through original sin we have a selfish desire to hold onto things rather than to let go of them. The decision to part with money which represents our labour is to recognize our own blessing and be a blessing to others. And yet, as in all things spiritual, we discover in our giving that we receive something far greater, the logic and blessing of which scripture tells us "It is better to give than to receive". (Acts. 20:35b) Yet when we leave this world, as appears evident in most deceased bodies placed in caskets, our hands aren't clutching but with fingers interlaced in one another, often with a symbol of prayer woven between them holding a rosary. We take nothing with us save those things we gave away to others.

PRAYER



There are literally hundreds of thousands if not millions of books that have been written on the subject of prayer but they are all meaningless if they don't convey and we don't understand the truth that prayer is communing with God and allowing God to commune with us. It is pure privilege and the great giving and gift of our God that He chose to communicate with us through

the prophets, through the scriptures, the Church and most especially through His Son, Jesus, who taught us to pray to His Father, allowing us to do what had been up until that time the unthinkable – to call God, *our Father!* Jesus told us to ask for anything in prayer, yet prayer should never be reduced in our relationship with divinity as just asking but of seeking truth, discerning and even questioning. To thank the Lord for all His many, many blessings and gifts in our being and our hope in living with Him forever!

Yes, it is never too late.... provided we respond to God now, today, in this moment, for that is all any of us have. "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts." (Fr.C)

Quotable Quotes from Fulton J. Sheen

Fasting detaches you from this world. Prayer reattaches you to the next world.

Prayer begins by talking to God, but it ends by listening to Him. In the face of Absolute Truth, silence is the soul's language.

It is not particularly difficult to find thousands who will spend two or three hours a day in exercising, but if you ask them to bend their knees to God in five minutes of prayer they protest that it is too long.



MASS *SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS*

**5th Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2024**

This weekend is ShareLife Sunday

Tuesday Mar 19 th 7:00pm	Intentions of Wyatt MacRae Requested by Mom and Dad
Wednesday Mar 20 th 8:30am	+Joseph Szydziak Requested by the O’Hearn Family
Thursday Mar 21 st 7:30am 8:30am	Unannounced Mass Holy Hour +Giuseppe Timpano Requested by Linda & Bruno Timpano
Friday Mar 22 nd 6:30pm 7:00pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS +Thomas Villemaire Requested by the Mittermeier Family
Saturday Mar 23 rd 3:00pm 4:30pm	Unannounced Mass Confessions +Josephine Gerynowicz Requested by the Cudney Family
Sunday Mar 24 th 9:00am 11:00am	For the People +Ken Matthews Requested by Clare & Gene Bisogno

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish’s annual campaign.

Every day, young people in our community need a helping hand due to homelessness, trafficking, or violence. ShareLife agencies ensure the safety of youth fleeing violent homes and provide them a supportive place to stay. This is all made possible thanks to amazing people like you who choose to support ShareLife. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Our parish goal this year is \$40,000.00. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

We are thrilled to present our latest Impact Report, a testament to the incredible power to you the parishioners’ love. Within the pages of this annual report to donors, you will discover stories of gratitude: from a family rescued through mental health services, to a young mother raising twins through your compassion, to a cherish senior forging meaningful connections. We encourage you to visit sharelife.org/impact

CARDINAL BURKE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE NOVENA

Cardinal Raymond Burke is embarking on a nine-month novena to the Virgin Mary to intercede “against the pressing crisis of our age” – and he is calling on Catholics around the world and “especially in the Americas” to join him. This novena is to be prayed daily throughout the nine-month novena from March 12 to December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe’s feast day). I encourage you to go to Cardinal Burke’s site for this novena at <https://novena.cardinalburke.com>, or in turn, you can download the Pray App by going to the Apple or Google store.

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, Rose Flanagan, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb.

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Intentions of Daniel Furtado
From March 3rd to March 30th



Regular Collection Mar 10th \$4230.00 (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 1 800 268 2637.

LENTEN PRESENTATION

The CWL are having a Lenten Presentation by Susan Cambell-Fournel PhD on “The Healing Foods of the Last Supper”. This presentation is approximately 30 minutes long and is open to all parishioners not just the CWL. It is an interesting perspective of the foods our Lord shared with his disciples in the upper room. There is no cost to attend, but we ask that you sign up using the forms at both entrances of the church so that we can prepare adequate seating. Thank you.

Where: Fr. Ellard Hall
When: Tuesday March 19th at 1:00pm.

Hope to see you there.

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