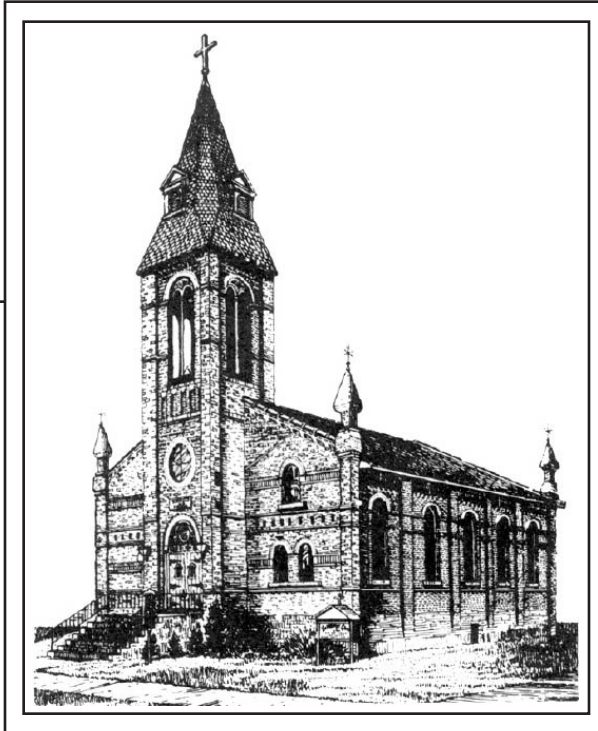


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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



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.

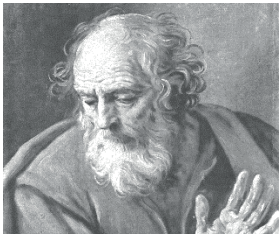
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email: info@collewl.ca
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The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree
Grand Knight: Richard Mittermeier
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The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree
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705-445 7615

St. Joseph: Was He An Old Man?

If you look at so much of the religious art that has been produced over the centuries you will notice that artists renderings of St. Joseph so often depict him as an old man. Why is that? Sacred scripture does not even hint at the suggestion that the man who would become the foster-father of God would have been old though we are given ample evidence on how young the Blessed Virgin Mary was. Again, why? Is it a mistake or a lack of imagination on the part of the artists or were they trying to protect virtue in the man who was a carpenter? Here, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen takes a keen look at the man, St. Joseph who was a husband to Mary and a faithful foster-father to Jesus, the Son of God.



Was he [St. Joseph] old or young? Most of the statues and pictures we see of Joseph today represent him as an old man with a gray beard, one who took Mary and her vow under his protection with somewhat the same detachment as a doctor would pick up a baby girl in a nursery. We have, of course, no historical evidence whatsoever concerning the age of Joseph. Some apocryphal accounts picture him as an old man; Fathers of the Church, after the fourth century, followed this legend rather rigidly. ...

But when one searches for the reasons why Christian art should have pictured Joseph as aged, we discover that it was in order better to safeguard the virginity of Mary. Somehow, the assumption had crept in that senility was a better protector of virginity than adolescence. Art thus unconsciously made Joseph a spouse chaste and pure by age rather than by virtue. But this is like assuming that the best way to show that a man would never steal is to picture him without hands. ...

But more than that, to make Joseph out as old portrays for us a man who had little vital energy left, rather than one who, having it, kept it in chains for God's sake and for his holy purposes. To make Joseph appear pure only because his flesh had aged is like glorifying a mountain stream that has dried. The Church will not ordain a man to his priesthood who has not his vital powers. She wants men who have something to tame, rather than those who are tame because they have no energy to be wild. It should be no different with God.

Furthermore, it is reasonable to believe that Our Lord would prefer, for a foster father, someone who had made a sacrifice rather than someone who was forced to it. There is the added historical fact that the Jews frowned on a disproportionate marriage between what Shakespeare called "crabbed age and youth"; the Talmud admits a disproportionate marriage only for widows or widowers. Finally, it seems hardly possible that God would have attached a young mother, probably about sixteen or seventeen years of age, to an old man. If he did not disdain to give

his mother to a young man, John, at the foot of the Cross, then why should he have given her an old man at the crib? A woman's love always determines the way a man loves: She is the silent educator of his virile powers.

Since Mary is what might be called a "virginizer" of young men as well as women, and the greatest inspiration of Christian purity, should she not logically have begun by inspiring and virginizing the first youth whom she had probably ever met — Joseph, the Just? It was not by diminishing his power to love but by elevating it that she would have her first conquest, and in her own spouse, the man who was a man, and not a mere senile watchman!

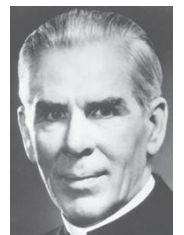


Joseph was probably a young man, strong, virile, athletic, handsome, chaste and disciplined. Instead of being a man incapable of loving, he must have been on fire with love. Just as we would give very little credit to the Blessed Mother if she had taken her vow of virginity after having been an old maid for fifty years, so neither could we give much credit to a Joseph who became her spouse because he was advanced in years. Young girls in those days, like Mary, took vows to love God uniquely, and so did young men, of whom Joseph was one so preeminent as to be called the "just." Instead, then, of being

dried fruit to be served on the table of the king, he was rather a blossom filled with promise and power. He was not in the evening of life, but in its morning, bubbling over with energy, strength and controlled passion. Mary and Joseph brought to their espousals not only their vows of virginity but also two hearts with greater torrents of love than had ever before coursed through human breasts. ...

How much more beautiful Mary and Joseph become when we see in their lives what might be called the first Divine Romance! No human heart is moved by the love of the old for the young; but who is not moved by the love of the young for the young? In both Mary and Joseph, there were youth, beauty and promise. God loves cascading cataracts and bellowing waterfalls, but he loves them better, not when they overflow and drown his flowers, but when they are harnessed and bridled to light a city and to slake the thirst of a child. In Joseph and Mary, we do not find one controlled waterfall and one dried-up lake but rather two youths who, before they knew the beauty of the one and the handsome strength of the other, willed to surrender these things for Jesus. Leaning over the manger crib of the Infant Jesus, then, are not age and youth but youth and youth, the consecration of beauty in a maid and the surrender of strong comeliness in a man.

(Ven. Fulton J. Sheen, from his book, *The World's First Love*, 1952)



MARCH 24, 2024



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Tuesday Mar 26th
7:00pm Intentions of Rodel Guerrero & Family
Wednesday Mar 27th
8:30am Unannounced Mass

THE TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday – March 28

Mass of the Lord’s Supper
7:00 pm.

followed by a time of adoration in the parish hall

Good Friday – March 29

The Passion of Our Lord
3:00 pm.

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm.

The Easter Vigil – Saturday, March 30

8:00 pm.

St. Augustine called this “the Mother of All Vigils”
(Those who attend the Vigil of Easter need not attend
Mass on Easter Sunday.)

EASTER SUNDAY – March 31

9:00 am & 11:00 am

The parish hall will be used for overflow with sound-
only of the Mass.

Blessing of the Food

Saturday March 30 - 9:00am

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 18th \$4441.76 (Inc PAG)



Easter Flowers

If anyone is interested in donating to the
Easter Flowers, there are envelopes
at either entrance to the church. Thank You



Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024



**ShareLife: Welcome Jesus into your hearts
by sharing your blessings today**

Today is Palm Sunday, a time in our Lenten journey when we
are reminded of the importance of welcoming Jesus in our
hearts. In the spirit of His teachings and example, let us extend
our hands to those who need our help the most.

Thus far, we have raised \$6000.00 toward our goal of
\$40,000.00. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife
envelope, online through our parish website, or at
sharelife.org/donate.

Thank you for living the Gospel by opening your hearts and
sharing your blessings.

Pontifical Collection for Holy Land
On Good Friday, March 29, 2024

The annual Good Friday Collection was first taken at Pope Paul
VI’s request fifty years ago. It is the only yearly request by the
Holy See of dioceses and parishioners throughout the world to
assist the Church in the Holy Land. The monies collected
support it’s pastoral, educational and social works and help to
maintain the Holy Places so important for the faith of
Christians everywhere.

For the sake of our brothers and sisters enduring hardships,
please give generously during your parishes Good Friday
celebrations of March 2th, 2024. If you are unable to attend
the service, it is possible to contribute by Interact e-transfer to
terresainte@bellnet.ca or online at Commissariat.ca – receipts
will be issued. On behalf of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy
Land, I sincerely thank you for your support. Fr. Robert Mokry,
OFM. Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada.

*There is both great joy and terrible sorrow
associated with this day, the Sunday that
begins Holy Week the Sunday
that portends the crucifixion of Our Lord.*



It is a time of despair, perplexity and contradiction. The very
people who applaud Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem that
morning, shouting out “Hosanna” and words of adoration will
within a week, be crying “Crucify Him.” They will go from
acclaiming Him as the new King of Israel to urging His life be
traded in favor of a convicted criminal; they will first praise
Him and then mock Him. Even friends entering Jerusalem at
His side will desert Jesus. All this discord will take place during
one week beginning on what we call Palm Sunday.



Now we are at the heart
of Jesus’ Mission: to
suffer appallingly and to

die without faltering love for us. This is
where the gospel begins and ends. Yet it is
hard to contemplate. We shy away from
the pain and injustice of the passion.



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