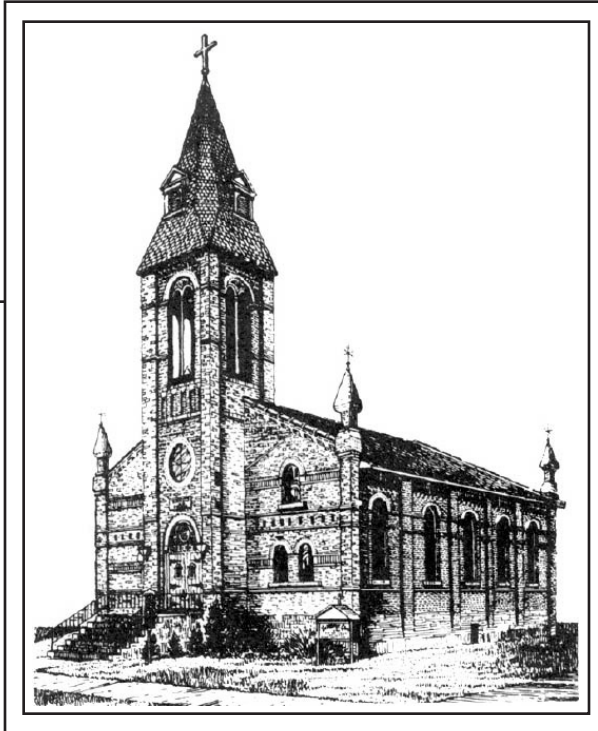


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
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Tel: 705-445-1790
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

G O N E

Several years ago, I wrote a bulletin article, of which I received many positive comments, but cannot seem to find the article. In the original I was discussing the stark and terrible human experience of loss in the face of death as we try to cope with the death of a parent, a spouse, a child or even the great sense of absence in the dying of a beloved dog. And while the passing of a pet is not comparable to a lost fellow human, it hurts and the pain and grief is real. How come to terms with such a sense of emptiness, grief, sorrow and a pain in the heart that won't go away as we stare in the face the overwhelming fact that they're 'gone'?



In every case of death there is that great chasm that cannot be crossed of which the finality and the tremendous sense of an un-crossable void remains. Our own sense of being left behind consumes us and the finality of it all makes the heart, the center of all our loves, torn open, raw and

infinitely sad. They were here, they were loved and loved us, they fill our minds with memories and the times we spent together in this world. Perhaps we watched them and accompanied them through great suffering or they left us too quickly, unexpectedly or tragically. No matter the circumstances, whatever the situations and whatever their age – infant, young or older – they're gone.

Our Catholic faith does not remove the finality in someone's leaving us for we know that as long as we live life in this world, we will not be with nor see that loved one again in our human existence. That finality is too much for some who get stuck in their grief and live their lives paralyzed by loss and grief. We often say we are grieving for someone who has died but in reality, we are grieving for ourselves. All grief is for the self and does not assist the one who is gone, though our prayers of hope-filled faith do help them. Our perspective is one of promises made, not by man but by God Himself that *"those who live and believe in Me will never die"*. (Jn.11:26)

I often think about Jesus weeping over the death of Lazarus, his friend. Why did He weep when He knew what He was about to do for him – to raise Lazarus back to life and return him to Martha and Mary? Jesus was grieved at what sin had brought into the world and it particularly struck Him when someone so close to Him in an earthly sense – a friend – was dead. It wasn't that Lazarus was 'gone', (though he was and had already been dead for four days and had begun to decompose), but that Jesus felt through human experience the emptiness and sadness over those who die and leave us. There really are no words for this separation and finality, save to say that they're gone. The pangs of grief are overwhelming when the heart still loves but the object of that love is gone and is not to return as we knew them in our life time.

Personally, I've lost grandparents, my mother and father and so many friends over the years. I remember realizing when my mother died (just prior to the onset of covid) that I was now an orphan and that the parents who had always been there for me no longer were.

They were gone. I've had several dogs over the years and anyone, who has had a dog and has received so much more than you could possibly ever give to the dog, knows that there is such a loss of an ever-present presence in that giving creature that is God spelled backward. Their empty dishes, their collar, their toys and their constant being with you is replaced by a silence and a sudden emptiness and quiet in the house that is most disturbing. They leave a big hole in your heart that is not easily healed and never really goes away as the years go by since they end up being buried in your heart.

Yet I can only imagine the horrendous pain felt in parents who lose a child either by sickness or accident or worse. I think of those parents and families whose child is abducted and they are left not knowing whether their child is still alive or not and where they are. The lament is great and the loss is heavy. As well, those who have lost a baby in the womb and no one knows but the mother and father and the great heavy sadness that follows. How much more does God, who sees the passing of His own at every moment, see what sin has brought into the world? To Him they are not, none of them, simply gone.

And so, the question: But gone where?

This is the question that crosses most people's minds in the face of human loss. Where are they? For those with no faith there is simply nothingness for those who have died. Their poems and remembrances in their 'celebrations of life' insist that the deceased now lives only in our memories of them. So, what about those souls who are remembered no more when all those who knew them are themselves 'gone'? And for those of faith, blessed to know that the Author of life, who created them and called each soul into being, knew that the remedy out of eternal death and nothingness was the death of God in Jesus Christ as a ransom. Jesus paid the price with His own blood on the Calvary Cross which opened the bright promise of heaven and life without end in perfect, unearthly happiness which surpasses far beyond any of our wildest imaginings. We have this promise, this blank cheque with an amount of inestimable value that we ourselves are to sign our names to of our own free will. When we choose Christ, we are choosing everything! Even the most tragic death has the hope and promise of resurrection and life who is those things in His very essence and being. And He promises it to us, us being the world He loves and saves.

Perspective is everything. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said that "Death is a beautiful thing for him who dies before he dies, by dying daily to the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil." How true that we don't just disappear and are gone, though it would seem thus. Death is but the door to life forever.

This earth and this life are beautiful and a gift from God but they're not our home. So, for those who believe in Christ and live with and for Him, at the conclusion of their lives on earth will in fact be 'gone' to those who knew them here on earth. That is, 'gone home'. (Fr. Charles)

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tues Sept 10 7:00pm	Intentions of the Guerrero Family
Wed Sept 11 8:30am	+Mato Krajinovic Requested by wife Katherine & Family
Thurs Sept 12 8:30am	+Gene Cudney Requested by Teresa & Feliks Kosierb
Friday Sept 13 7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	+Mato Krajinovic Requested by wife Katherine & Family
Sat Sept 14 3:30 to 4:00pm	Confession
4:30pm	+Cliff Rivers Requested by the O’Hearn Family
Sunday July 15 9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Mato Krajinovic Requested by wife Katherine & Family

Please Pray for the Sick

Margot Brandreth, Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Kaz Watroba, Albert Sant, Rose Flanagan, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb, Patrick McKee, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Joseph Crupi, Vera Petrovic, Ashley Zavitz, Alex Poirier & Family, Tammy MacDonald, Anita Taglione, Denis Fennessy

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Dorothy Dynes

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for
The Intentions of St. Mary’s Parishioners
From Sept 8th to Sept 14th, 2024



Regular Collection Sept 1st, \$4655.00 (Inc PAG)

Building & Maint Sept 1st \$1865.00



ShareLife:

Answer the call to compassion



100,000 people in Toronto are expected to turn to food charities for the first time in 2024. Through our parish’s support, ShareLife, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto, and a generous anonymous donor are committing \$750,000 to fund food banks and meal programs throughout the Archdiocese.

Reaching our parish campaign goal will help to make these grants possible. We have currently raised \$29,544.000 towards our suggested goal of \$41,000.00. Please help combat hunger at sharelife.org/donate or by giving at our parish using a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for your compassion.

CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

St. Mary's CWL will be holding their membership drive for **new** members this weekend Sept. 7/8 and next weekend Sept. 14/15. CWL members will be in the Fr. Ellard hall and at the back of the church after all the weekend Masses ready to answer any questions and to help with registration.

“All parishioners are invited to attend “The Stations Of The Cross in a beautiful outdoor setting in Singhampton on September 28th from 11 am to 1 pm. Address is 429498 Concession 8B, Singhampton. Please bring a lawn chair, bug spray and your lunch. If the weather is bad, we will do the stations in St. Mary’s church with lunch to follow in the parish hall. Please sign up on the forms provided at both entrances of the church so that we know how many prayer booklets to bring. For further information contact Carol at 647-241-4699.”



If so, please call the parish office at 705 445 1790, leave your name, and phone number. St. Mary’s R.C.I.A. Program will begin soon. Those adults who have never been baptized or have been baptized but now wish to join the church are asked to call the parish office.

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