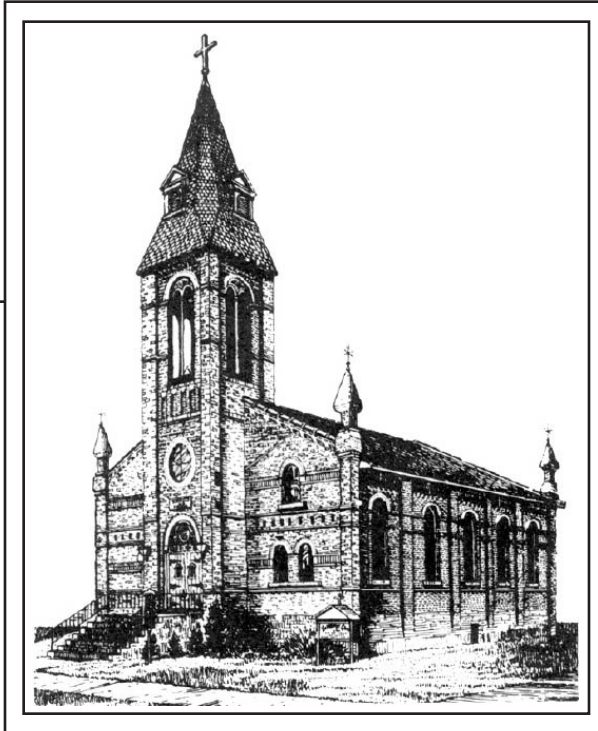


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In Appreciation of Ted VanBoxmeer

Dedication could be defined as being driven to serve through great love. To say that 93-year-old Ted Van Boxmeer has been dedicated in his more than 60- years of service to St. Mary's parish would be an understatement. In the last few months, Ted has stepped away from the various chores and varied ministries he has done for this parish community, a much-deserved respite from his six decades long active involvement in service to the Lord. We are the beneficiaries of Ted's quiet, constant work for the good and the life of St. Mary's Parish, Collingwood. And



much of that work was done behind the scenes and unseen, but known and seen by God. His late wife, Anne, was also greatly involved in the life of St. Mary's and served as CWL president as well, and both Ted and Anne, along with Dick and Elinore Vandervechte, donated the crucifix which hangs on the sanctuary wall.

Over the span of six decades, Ted was an altar server, a sacristan and an usher but he also assisted with weddings, funerals and baptisms. Each year Ted and his wife would set up the church for Thanksgiving and he always made sure that Mass preparations were in order and properly set up for any visiting priest. As a trusted man who could be counted on, he opened and unlocked the church each day, also replenishing the altar and votive candle supply and collected the money and rolled the coins himself. He also served as parish gardener in cutting the grass, caring for the gardens and shoveling the winter snow. He often used to sleep in the church basement many years ago, with its dirt floor, in order to ensure that the faulty old furnace didn't go out in the night, ensuring parishioners a warm place of worship the next day. And it was a warm heart for God and others that spurred Ted on to this kind of life in service at St. Mary's Parish. Ted, we heartily thank you for your hard work and care for this our parish and for your witness to a life of service! God bless you. *(Fr. Charles)*

AND ON THAT NOTE... THANK YOU BARB!

A note of great appreciation goes to Barb Dufton who for the last few years has planted and maintained the beautiful gardens adorning the front area of the church. Barb always seems to work when no one is around which would give the impression that the magical flora just appears, grows and looks orderly on its own. Yet it is the handiwork, the gift and the love that is so evident in the cheery flowers and plants that together put a spring and summer smile on St. Mary's. Thank you Barb. *(Fr. C)* ps – Barb is looking for an assistant who can help in the next few weeks and next year in planting and caring for the gardens through the spring and summer months. If you are interested in helping and have a green thumb, please speak to me, Fr. Charles, or call Jayne in the parish office. *(Fr.C)*

WAITING

What a blessed people we are when in the wisdom of the Church we are given repeated annual opportunities to realign

our Christian walk with Christ more closely to Him and if we have been following the Lord far-off, as St. Peter himself had once done, we are given marvellous graces from the Lord in seasons of the Church that call us back to Him.

Our 'waiting' in the Advent season consisting of just four quick Sundays, is not a passive waiting, as for a bus or a phone call, but one that calls us to awaken or reawaken to the truth that Christ is coming at a time we do not know and cannot know. We make preparations within our souls asking ourselves where we presently are standing in relationship to Christ and whether we actually want to, desire to see Him and be with Him forever. The desire to be with the Lord, while it could be from a sense of weariness of this world or a sense of escape from it (as with M.A.I.D.) we don't and can't choose when we will meet Christ. He chooses because our lives belong to Him.

The four Sundays represent a season of joy. This is not a penitential season with an emphasis on sin and repentance and Advent is not just a mini-Lent of fewer weeks where we basically are called to do the same things. No, Advent is a joyful waiting, a time to get ready on the inside while all around us a tinsel Christmas is already being celebrated. I've always held that the Advent we enter into will determine the Christmas we celebrate. If the four weeks leading up to Christmas are observed purely in a secular way, we will no doubt have a secular Christmas and will be so sick and tired of it come December 26 that we'll wonder how we got caught up in it all once again. But, the best things in life are free and our parish celebrations of Advent will put us in the mood to want to get our lives in spiritual order, enter into reflection in the mystery and joy of what Christ has done for us and wants to give to us still.

The First Sunday of Advent, and through the readings on each of the Sunday's, tells of hope, the Second Sunday, of faith, the Third, love and the Fourth, peace and these four convey all that is needed and necessary in the spiritual life in anticipation of the great things God has promised us.

A principal in life which works to give us a better perspective on any season of preparation is, First the famine, then the Feast. In some sense we tend to want to simply enjoy this time of glitzy Christmas decorations, music, lights and a sentimental sense of Christmas' past in our lives. We might even be tempted to think that this time, somewhere from mid-November and Santa Claus parades, is what we are celebrating, but it can't be. Realistically, though, we get tired of this so quickly and by the time Christmas rolls around we can't wait to take down the tree, decorations and any semblance of Christmas and be rid of it, wondering how we thought it was so great in the first place. That's because Christmas without Christ can't deliver Christmas in what it truly means.

So, waiting, the last thing we might think of doing during this hectic, busy and party time before Christmas, is the thing our souls need most because the waiting soul will, yes will, know hope, faith, love and peace... in Jesus, because He alone is the reason for the season. *(Fr. Charles)*

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tues Dec 3 rd 7:00pm	+Zygmunt Szewczyk Requested by the Cudney Family
Wed Dec 4 th 8:30am	Intentions of the Gal, Jagielski, Chodynski & Hebbes Families Requested by Barb Gal
Thurs Dec 5 th 8:30am	+John Allary Requested by Anne Scoular
Fri Dec 6 th 7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	+Gene Cudney Requested by the Hickey Family
Sat Dec 7 th 3:30 to 4:00pm	Confession
4:30pm	+Paul Robinson Requested by Gayle Robinson
Sun Dec 8 th 9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Jean Van Benthem Requested by Joe Van Benthem

Please Pray for the Sick

Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, , Albert Sant, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Ashley Zavitz, Alex Poirier & Family, Tammy MacDonald, Anita Taglione, Denis Fennessy, Mary Little, Yvonne Grimm, Joyce Mittermeier, Janine Wright

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased



The Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Intentions of
St. Mary's Parishioners
From Dec 1st to Dec 7th, 2024



Regular Collection Nov 24 th	\$5680.00 (Inc PAG)
ShareLife	\$33,535.00
Shepherds Trust	\$3472.00



OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory Envelopes will be ready for pick up next weekend Dec 6th and 7th. They will be in the parish hall in alphabetical order. Alternatively, you can pick them up at the parish office.

MISSALS

Missals are available for purchase in the little store at the back of the church, or from the parish office. The cost is \$7.00. Please put money in the box provided. Thank You

DAY OF CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT

Wednesday December 18th
9:00am to 11:00am
6:00pm to 8:00pm



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

The Masses for Christmas will be as follows:

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
4:30 pm and 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family Tuesday, December 31

4:30 pm

Wednesday January 1 – New Year's Day
10:00 am

TIP TAP PAY

The future of giving is coming to St. Mary's Parish. In the next few weeks, we will be installing a Tip Tap pay machine in the front vestibule of the parish. There will be a device that will allow you to tap \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$20.00.

You will also have the option to register your card after your first TAP, if you wish to receive a tax receipt, (you only need to register your card one time).

Each 'tiptap' gift that you make with a registered card will be available for an end of year tax receipt. There is no data stored in the 'tiptap' device; it also cannot be hacked as any tampering triggers a signal that shuts down the device.

More information to follow.

PAG – PREAUTHORIZED GIVING

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) to assist you in your support of the work of the Parish through your regular parish offerings. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, the parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly to the parish account. For more information, please call your parish office.

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.

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