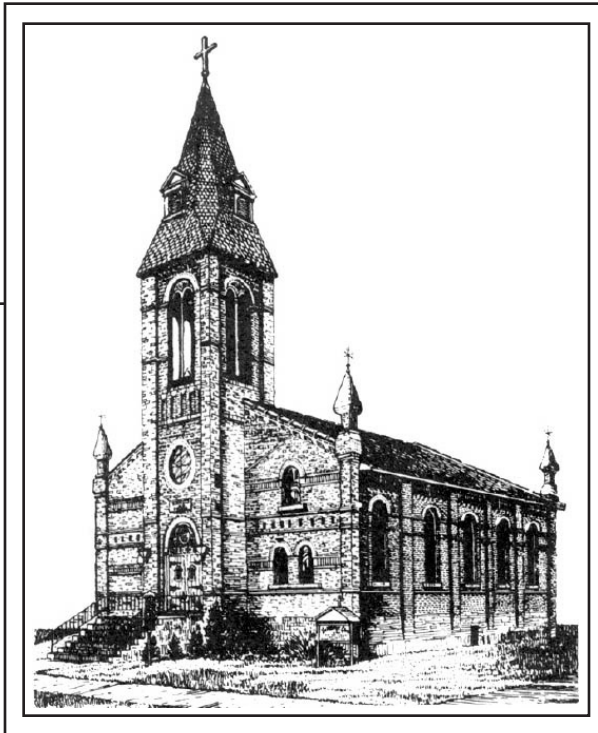


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
Collingwood, ON L9Y 3L6
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
Collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE OLDEST KNOWN CHRISTMAS CAROL

Singing Christmas carols and ‘caroling’, in going about various streets or to specific locations in a town or city to sing songs principally written to recall and herald the truths of the Saviour’s birth, has been around for the last 700 years. Yet I found it interesting to discover that there was a time in England in the 17th century when the celebration of Christmas itself was banned for a time including the singing of all Christmas carols. It was felt by those more closely aligned with the Puritan movement that Christmas festivities were more closely tied with Catholicism, when Catholics were persecuted and even hated. Some cited that such Christmas celebrations were not found in the scriptures and therefore could not be justified. Others too thought the festivities often involved drunkenness and debauchery. Scottish Presbyterians had already banned Christmas in 1640.

In January of 1642 a bill was passed by Parliament, and signed off by King Charles, which put into law a monthly day of prayer and fasting in the hope of bringing an end to the war. Church services were not to be carried out on that day on the last Wednesday of every month. By Christmas of 1644, which fell on the last Wednesday of the month of December which was also the 25th, the ordinance passed and announced just days before Christmas banned all celebrations. While the country had been in Civil War and the ordinance of fast and prayer called the people to petition God for an end to it, the ban was not immediately successful and there were some protests calling for the recall of such a ban on Christmas. In 1645 Parliament introduced a new Directory of Public Worship for the Anglican church, which stated that Christmas, Easter and other festivals were no longer to be celebrated and the outright ban came in June of 1647, replacing Christmas with the equivalent of a bank holiday. The annual ban continued until 1657 when it was found to be largely unenforceable and so was lifted. This was largely influenced by the stories of Charles Dickens and Prince Albert and a restoration of the joyful celebration of the Nativity at Christmas.

What’s interesting is that with war in the country and in a seeming defense of and call to prayer and fasting calling on God’s help for an end to it, the authorities had made it illegal to celebrate God’s greatest gift to us in the Incarnation of God in the flesh through His birth in time and on earth as our Saviour. Reformers so often reform the wrong things.

THE OLDEST CHRISTMAS CAROL

We know that biblically the first Christmas carol ever sung would have been by the angels when they appeared to the shepherds who were tending their flocks at night. That God would send these magnificent beings from heaven to these poor people is so telling of the God who comes to the poor and the rich, to those who are seen as wise in the world to those who have a wisdom that comes from experience and suffering. He invites them all.

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,

and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

*“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among people
With whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:8-14)*

There is evidence that perhaps the oldest Christmas carol was written in the second century by St. Telesphorus of Rome called the “Angel’s Hymn”, but there has been no script of it preserved. Yet, the earliest carol found dates from the 4th century and while the tune has not survived time the lyrics have. Most of the carols that we have known have only been around for the last three hundred years, but this one predates them all. It was a 4th century bishop named Hillary (which means cheerful or merry) who composed this piece in Latin. The English translation is:

**“Jesus, devoted redeemer of all nations,
Has shone forth.
Let the whole family of the faithful celebrate the stories.
The shining star, gleaming in the heavens,
Makes Him known at His birth,
And going before,
has led the Magi to His cradle falling down.
They adore the tiny baby hidden in rags
As they bear witness to the True God
By bringing a mystical gift.”**



In this grace-filled season of Advent, we prepare our very souls to greet the Christ when He comes, mindful that He did come in the mystery of His nativity in the unlikely incarnation of God in the flesh as a mere, helpless baby that first Christmas. In the language of John the Baptist, we are to make a straight path or road into our hearts for Christ to more easily come into them. We recall that our faith not only looks back but even now celebrates the ongoing mysteries of Christ who comes to us still and ever since His founding of the Church on the apostles, in the Most Holy Mass, His presence in the Word of God and His visible reign and teaching of us by the Church. And, that He will come again – the Second Coming – on a day and at a time we do not know for He said that His coming would be like “a thief in the night”, unexpected. Yet if we even now expect Him to come to us today as our most welcome guest, then we are ready and prepared that that day would not find us caught off guard. This knowledge and the living of a life rooted on it makes ready a soul in love, a heart that is open and a home for God. (Fr.C)

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tues Dec 17 th 7:00pm	+Rosemarie Scattergood Requested by the Cudney Family
Wed Dec 18 th 8:30am	+Dorothy Jewkes Requested by Barb & Mary
Thurs Dec 19 th 8:30am	+Joseph Wylie Requested by Doety Lewis
Fri Dec 20 th 7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	In Gratitude Gal & Jagielski Family Requested by Gal & Jagielski Family
Sat Dec 21 st 3:30 to 4:00pm	Confession
4:30pm	+Greg Cudney Requested by the Cudney Family
Sun Dec 22 nd 9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Ornella Sorensen Requested by the Sanfilippo Family

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 the
St. Mary's Parishioners
From Dec 15th to Dec 21st, 2024



Regular Collection Dec 8th \$3697.15 (Inc PAG)
ShareLife \$34,061.00



MISSALS

We have about 10 Missals still available for purchase in the little store at the back of the church, or from the parish office. The cost is \$7.00.

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 and New Year's will be as follows:

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

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

Feast of the Holy Family/New Year's Eve
Tuesday, December 31

4:30pm

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God/New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1
10:00am

SHARELIFE

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Living the Gospel through ShareLife

NEW: Your gift will double in value until the end of the year, your contribution to our Parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000. Your support of ShareLife is improving the lives of our brothers and sisters in the deaf and hard of hearing community.

"If you ever wonder what impact you are making – you are sending Deaf kids to an accessible American Sign Language (ASL) camp in the summer, you are connecting Deaf kids with Deaf mentors; you are inspiring deaf kids to achieve their dreams; you are teaching family members ASL so they can communicate with their Deaf children. When you give, it goes a long way." – Kelly Mackenzie, Silent Voice.

Our goal this year is \$41,000.00. To date we have achieved \$34,061.00.

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

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory Envelopes are ready for pick up they will be in the parish hall starting this weekend until the 22nd then they will be brought back into the office for Christmas and New Year. If you would like to start using envelopes please give me a call at the parish office and I will get a box ready for you.

J. Ferraro & Co Ltd. Quality pays...everyday

PAINTING • COATINGS • RESTORATIONS • SINCE 1972
705-445-8452
 john@ferrarocommercialpainting.com
 www.ferrarocommercialpainting.com



Affiliated with
 Carruthers & Davidson

Chatterson

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

www.chattersonfuneralhome.com
 404 Hurontario Street, Collingwood, ON L9Y 2M8
 Tel 705-445-4700 Fax 705-444-4700
 O/b 1728273 Ontario Inc.



DQ Collingwood
 316 Hurontario 705-445-4141

Free Home Evaluation

KAMINSKI & ASSOCIATES
 REAL ESTATE GROUP
 www.homesearchcentre.com



Paul Kaminski
 Sales Representative
 pkhomes4u@gmail.com

Dominika Kaminski
 Sales Representative
 212domini.ka@gmail.com

705-243-1711
 647-712-3321

"FROM GEORGIAN BAY TO THE GTA"



Dealers for:
 Load Lifter • Hangcha • Skyjack
 Large inventory of new &
 used forklifts

519-599-5238
 Flesherton, ON
 www.odonnell-lift.ca



10 Keith Ave,
 Suite 304
705-443-8188
 www.drjenniely.com

*Pray
 The Rosary*

Remember...

Let our advertisers know
 you saw their ad here.



**Central Place
 Retirement
 Community**

855 3rd Ave. E.
 519-371-1968
 info@cpretirement.ca
 www.cpretirement.ca



**DADSWELL
 DENTURE CLINIC**
 "We Love To Make You Smile"

Kim Dadswell, DD



72 Pine Street Collingwood
 705-445-0011 www.dadswelldenture.com



Collingwood Chapel | Creemore Chapel
 82 Pine St. | 182 Mill St.
 705-445-2651 | 705-466-2108

www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com

Family Owned and Operated



FINE JAPANESE CUISINE

188 First St • 705-293-1037
 www.TheHungrySumo.com
 Dine In | Take Out | Catering

PHARMASAVE

Mary's Pharmacy
 460 Hume Street, Unit 6
 Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 1W6
705-444-7997

Mary Noseworthy,
 B.Sc.Pharm.
 Pharmacist/Owner

**THE PERFECT SPOT TO ADVERTISE
 YOUR BUSINESS!**



TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL 1-800-268-2637



LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
 BY BRENT AND RACHEL KELLY
 285 First Street, Collingwood
 River Bend Plaza, Wasaga Beach



**Shopping
 Locally
 Saves Gas**