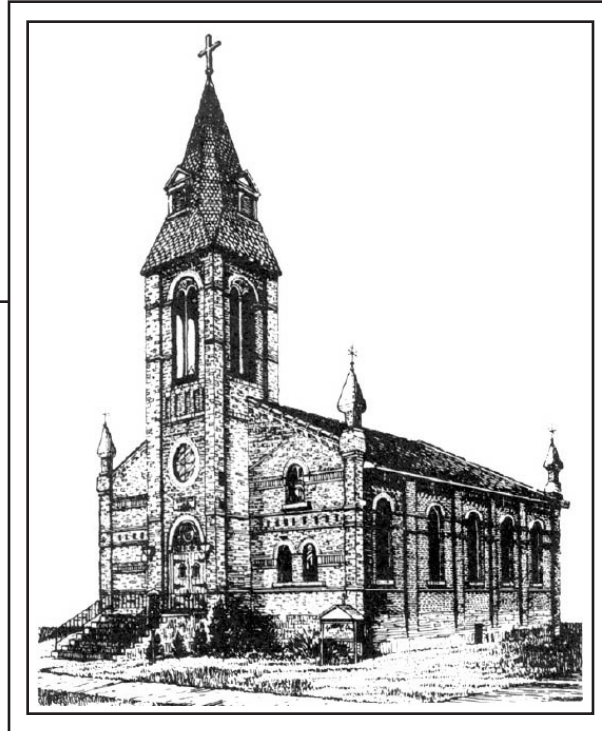


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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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.
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. to Mass

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 School 705-445-2043
Notre Dame de la Huronie 705-444-1764

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

Strive For Balance In Your Spiritual Life

(Fr. Basil W. Maturin (1847–1915) was an Anglican priest who became a Catholic priest at age 51. He was on the Lusitania when sunk by a German U-Boat. He drowned after helping others.)

Most of the heresies that have opposed the Church in her progress through the world have arisen from the undue pressing of one part of the truth. For the truth of the Christian Faith can generally be stated in the form of a paradox. And any failure to keep perfect balance and proportion in these statements results in error.

The history of the struggles of the early ages is the history of the wonderful instinct with which the Church ever preserved the mean between the extremes toward one or another of which the human mind tended in the definition of the doctrines of the Faith.

But amid all these controversies that spread over several hundred years, ranging from gross heresy to the nicest and most delicate overstatement or understatement of a truth, the Church ever kept the balance between the extremes of the contending parties, and taught that "Christ is perfect God and perfect man," and that the union was effected "not by confusion of substance, but by unity of Person."

So, again, with the doctrines of *human* life. Some, looking upon the nature of man, have felt most keenly its inherent badness; others, its inherent goodness. But the Church, recognizing fully all the evil and all the good that is in man, taught that his nature is neither wholly bad nor wholly good; that he is a being created in the image of God, but fallen, and that without God's grace he cannot attain to his perfection. Again, in regard to man's *spiritual* life. There have been those who have taught that man's greatest act is to be still and to leave God to work within him — that man can do nothing; God must do all. On the other hand, there have been others who, feeling the intensity of their own struggle and little sense of supernatural help, have taught that man must fight as best he can his own battles. And the Church, recognizing what was true, and rejecting what was erroneous and exaggerated, in each, taught the truth in the great paradox of St. Paul: "Work out your salvation. For it is God who worketh in you."

DO NOT DEVELOP ONLY PART OF YOUR SOUL

There is danger of this pressing of part of a truth in the *practical* life. Man has many sides to his nature, and his conscience must take them all under its care. If he neglects part, he will find that he has injured the whole, for all are a part of the one person. It is true in more senses than one that "the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee." Every member of the body must be used for the welfare of the whole organism. And every side of life must be used if a man is to be at his best.

Indeed, if anyone sets himself to develop merely one side, he will find that he fails to perfect even that side, for it needs many things that come to it from other quarters. One man determines to develop the social side and altogether neglects the religious, but he finds in time that the social side fails in its perfection through the lack of just those things that religion alone could give him. Another neglects the social side for religion, and he soon finds that his religion becomes fanciful, fantastic, and deceptive, unless it is brought in contact with the hard facts of human life and experience. Another determines that he will give his life to the training and development of his reason alone, but he learns, perhaps too late, that he is not merely a reasoning but a moral being, and that the reason isolated and separated from the rest of his nature suffers vengeance at the hands of those powers which, as its fellow workers, would have helped and perfected it.

There is the same danger in the struggle with sin and the effort to form virtues. Many people who set themselves to conquer one fault and give their whole minds to this will find, if they are not careful, that they have only fallen into another.

For virtue cannot thrive in the narrow soil of one department of the soul's life, unnourished by the streams that should flow into it from all sides and unpruned by the hand that watches over and labors for the enrichment of the whole. Every Christian virtue has more sides than one and is a more complicated and delicately balanced thing than we imagine. It has to look, as it were, toward God and toward man; toward the person in whom it dwells and toward others; toward itself and its place in the soul and its relations with other virtues. It has to be tended in its growth by the intellect as well as by the will and affections, and has to endure much severe pruning at the hand of reason. It must be able to live in the open and bear the hard dealings of the rough world, and it must grow in the silence of prayer and the presence of God.

There may be such a thing as the overgrowth of the one virtue to the crowding out of others that are equally or perhaps more necessary. Or, on the other hand, we may develop a virtue in one department of life to the neglect of all others. It is not uncommon to find a man very different in his domestic relations from what he is in public life. There are not a few who are thoroughly truthful and honest in all the concerns of life except in the conduct of their business. But a virtue is not a Christian virtue if it is exercised with exceptions. It must have its roots in the *person* and spread through every department of the soul's life.

In the effort to conquer our faults, therefore, we have to be on our guard against the danger of being one-sided. For the very virtues we may be striving for are not so simple as they seem, and the materials of which they are formed, if not mixed in exact proportion, may produce not a virtue but a fault.

Humility is the perfect blending of the very highest and the lowliest thoughts of oneself. The humble man is conscious at once of his own nothingness and of his exaltation as God's creature, whom He would unite to Himself. And he somehow contrives with the deepest sense of his own unworthiness to maintain a dignity that wins respect. If he leaves out this self-respect, his humility is not true humility and ends in self-degradation.

Meekness is the blending of gentleness and strength — a strength that has been won by victory over self and passion, and a gentleness that shows that this victory is the outcome of no harshness and bitterness toward self or the world, but of love. Test true meekness by the severest trials to which it can be put, and you will find in it no flaw of weakness or harshness, but a dauntless courage of the loftiest kind and an inexhaustible gentleness.

So with charity. Christian charity is not a blind disregard of facts, a refusal to see things as they are, a condoning of the sins of others. It is the love of the sinner springing from the love of God, which necessitates the hatred of sin. There is a great deal of spurious charity in the world, making excuse for sin or explaining it away, devoid of strength and virility, and often mixed with insincerity and unreality. True Christian charity blends in perfect proportion justice and love.

Thus, we might go on and see how every virtue involves the balancing and blending of characteristics that seem at first sight almost opposite, and thus embrace the whole many-sided nature of man and keep him exact and well-proportioned. There is more truth than we realize in the saying "Every vice is a virtue carried to extremes." (FrC)



Tues Jan 28 th	
6:30pm to Mass	Confession
7:00pm	Intentions of Guerrero Family
Wed Jan 29 th	
8:30am	✙Michael Barcellos Requested by Megan & Family
Thurs Jan 30 th	
8:30am	Intentions of the MacRae Family Requested by Fllo MacRae
Fri Jan 31 st	
7:30am	HOLY HOUR
8:30am	✙Emilia & Ted Requested by Eva
Sat Feb 1 st	
3:30 to 4:00pm	Confession
4:30pm	✙Paul Robinson Requested by Chris Godin & Family
Sun Feb 2 nd	
9:00am	✙Deceased Members of the Holzendorff Family Requested by Rose Holzendorff
11:00am	For the People

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, Mary Little, Yvonne Grimm, Janine Wright, Anne Johnston, Dorothy Shaughnessy, Rose Flanagan, Norma Still.

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased



The Sanctuary Lamp Burns

For the Intentions of
St. Mary's Parishioners
Jan 26th to Feb 1st 2025



Regular Collection Jan 19th \$4797.85 (Inc PAG)

Second Collection next weekend Feb 1st and 2nd
for our Building & Maintenance

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please don't forget to pick up your 2025 Offertory Envelopes. They will be out on the shelf in-between the church and the hall. **Anyone who would like to start using envelopes, please call the office and I will get a box ready.**

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

February 22, 2025

As many of you know over the years, St. Mary's has been involved in the Coldest Night of the year walk for homeless youth, with our team St. Mary's Angels. In the 7 years we were involved we raised a total of \$25,520.00.

After a 2-year hiatus, the Angels are back and the St. Mary's CWL are taking the lead on this. We will have a new Captain Cara O'Hearn.

We need your help!

We are inviting you the parishioners to either join our team, or support someone who is walking. The funds raised will support youth at risk of homelessness in the areas of Collingwood, Stayner, Wasaga Beach and Thornbury.

Please support us as you can!

Simply **DONATE OR JOIN** our team St. Mary's Angels, to show you care! By going to cnoy.org/Collingwood and look for our team name.

If you require further information just give me a call at the parish office, and I will put you in touch with Cara, or you can email Cara at caraprimab@gmail.com
Thank You.

HOLD THE DATE

There will be a parish potluck on Saturday February 15th. There are sign up sheets at both entrances of the church. They give an option if you would like to bring an appetizer, main course or desert. A wonderful idea to have the parishioners come together to enjoy some good food and conversation and getting to know one another.

Regional Jubilee Mass Celebrations

There is a special Jubilee Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John A. Boissonneau on Thursday January 30 at 7 pm at St Mary's Parish in Barrie. All are invited to attend. Confessions will be available before Mass.

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The Rosary*



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