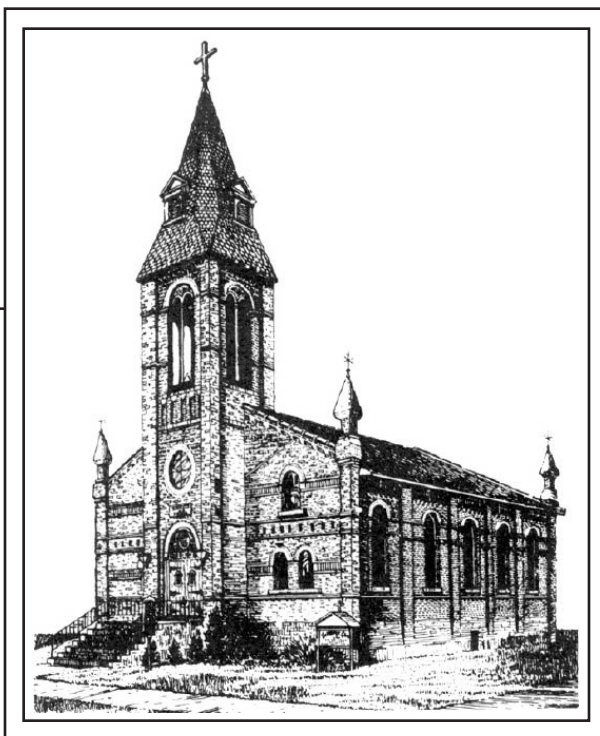


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63 Elgin Street
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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



**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.

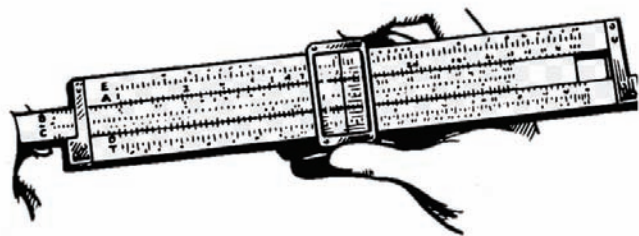
BULLETIN NOTICES must be received at the parish office by Tuesday at noon. Announcements will appear for no more than two weeks, and should contain only pertinent information. Please be brief.

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

REFLECTION ON A The Slide Rule Called Life



I was thinking a few weeks ago... but as I don't do it very often, I can easily remember when I last did it. :-) I was thinking about this earthly life in time being like a slide rule that is moving in the same direction at the same speed for everyone, but the question is, toward what? We may each perceive the movement of time differently and either sense it going either too slowly or too quickly. Yet it is that which is our horizon that makes the movement either happy or not.

For the Christian, our horizon is the beyond of what can be seen with the eyes of the heart. Heaven isn't just a destination, it's Home. And in our love for Jesus which is to be ever-deepening through prayer, gratitude and trust, we experience a taste of home now. The Sacred Host of Holy Communion with God is that taste as "the foretaste and the promise of heaven".

Whether we cooperate with the summons, the greatest invitation on earth, to come to heaven, refuse it or squander it, the momentum of time still carries us all forward equally and together on this continuum of precious time to choose our destination; smoking or non-smoking, so to speak. We choose. Sometimes we humans have control problems either in trying to change or fix others or with a lack of our own self-control. God, however, has made us free and does not control us. He has given us freewill which is an incredible and powerful freedom, yet not only a freedom from sin, selfishness and self-serving but a freedom 'for' the good things He offers us and has placed before us in our lives. This reminds me of the name of the government control of alcohol here in Ontario, the LCBO, *Liquor Control Board of Ontario*. 'Control' in relationship to how liquor is licensed and regulated and who can sell it is under government control. And this reminds me of an anti drinking and driving TV ad of a couple decades ago which stated that "*You are your own liquor control board*". Is this not true, that we have been given such power in life with great freedoms to do as we choose, but with the ability to rationally discern and choose how we act, think and speak; the way we love or refuse to love or be loved; the way we live and how we live with God and all others? And in the way we respond to the goodness and grace of God whose desire is that we would choose to live according to His slide rule which focuses always on our future being chosen by us today?

Ah, the importance of today in the moving slide rule of this fleeting, quickly passing life.

I recently saw a saying that rings true for me: "Fear doesn't stop death. Fear stops life!" I admit that since I've officially become a senior, I've felt discomfort in the idea of this slide rule of life. As it moves at the exact same rate for the baby, the teen, the young adult and the middle-aged and senior, some want to slow it down and others want to speed it up. When we're younger, we want time to pass quickly so that we can get... you name it – a driver's license, a car, a job, a person to date, a wife, a husband, children and then the busier life gets the faster the time 'appears' to pass by. The older you get the more you have a desire to slow it down so that you can savour the life you have built and the accomplishments you've invested your life, time and money into. Of course, wisdom known will tell us that all this 'stuff' of life's investment in really nothing and will, one day, be left behind whether we like it or not. I'd admit to the temptation of some measure of fear in this sense of getting older fast, all the while knowing that fear never comes from God. In the past year I've lost much of the sense of needing anything save those things that are most important; a good, close friend and friends, many fellow travellers, and a faith lived with others who share the same journey. The accumulation of the fruit of life's pursuits loses its luster and eventually become unnecessary baggage to be dragged around like a dead weight. God tells us 365 times in the scriptures not to be afraid and never once says 'be afraid'. And if God says it, you can depend on it with Jesus, I trust in you.

Related to this fear of the slide rule of life is the now so widely accepted but horrible act of M.A.I.D., the deliberate, chosen decision to take one's own life with the help of the medical profession under the guise of 'health care'. It's only bad news no matter how you look at it, particularly serious when viewed from the point of Christ and the Church that teaches that our life is not our own to destroy, no matter the circumstances. For as Jesus said, "*A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.*" (Matt7:18) The taking of anyone's life is always tragic and so sad and leaves those left behind in shock, tremendous grief and the great pain of loss and "if only...". Yet when the mind is dark in some way and has given up all hope that life will ever get better because of the great loneliness and darkness they are experiencing, even when surrounded with people, we feel so sad for their state that led to the taking of their life. With MAID, however, it's suicide with accompaniment and encouraging words – bad fruit.

"Man is lonely by birth. Man is only a pilgrim on earth. Born to be king, is but a temporary thing; only a loan while on earth." Don't let fear stop your life for in the passing of time, God is with us. Lord, Jesus, I trust in You. (Fr. Charles)

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Tues Feb 18 th 6:30pm to Mass 7:00pm | Confession +Michelina Iadinardi Requested by Silvio Carlucci & Family |
| Wed Feb 19 th 8:30am | Special Intentions of Crispina Mamaat Requested by Virginia & Lito Mina +Marie & Denis Fonseca Requested by Rupika & Family |
| Thurs Feb 20 th 8:30am | +Ted Van Boxmeer Requested by Carol Johns |
| Fri Feb 21 st 7:30am 8:30am | HOLY HOUR Special Intentions Martha & Michael Requested by Gal & Jagielski Family +Gene Cudney Requested by Mary & Family |
| Sat Feb 22 nd 3:30 to 4:00pm 4:30pm | Confession +Monique & Richard Talbot Requested by Sylvie Talbot |
| Sun Feb 23 rd 9:00am 11:00am | +Gwen Collard Requested by John Mattachioni 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, Pat Ironside-Mayes

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased



The Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Intentions of
St. Mary's Parishioners
Feb 16th to Feb 22nd 2025



Regular Collection Feb 9th \$4252.00 (Inc PAG)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights of Columbus Council 5793 here at St. Mary's are hosting a Shrove Tuesday supper in the Father Ellard Hall on Tuesday March 4th. The supper will be served between 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

In order for this to work, we will have sign-up sheets at either entrance to church this weekend and next. We need a name and the number of people, so we can prepare the proper amount of food. **The last day to sign up will be Sunday Mar 2nd**, this will be a free will offering. We look forward to seeing you at this very popular event.

TIP TAP PAY FOR OFFERTORY

The Archdiocese of Toronto has partnered with Tip Tap Pay so that you can help support your parish with a simple tap. Simply tap the 'tiptap' device to give to your parish. That's it!

You have an option of \$10.00, \$20.00 or \$50.00.

For an end-of-year tax receipt for your 'tiptap' gifts, scan the parish QR code right away, with your smart phone **and register your payment card**. Once registered, you will receive an end-of-year tax receipt for your 'tiptap' gifts.

All 'tiptap' gifts prior to registering are not eligible for a tax receipt.

You can scan the code here in the bulletin, or there is a QR Code attached to the machine.

Your card will be charged the amount indicated on the device each time you tap your card. You can also tap the device multiple times. Your data is completely secure. The 'tiptap' device does not store any information, and will shutdown if tampered with. Please note that only payment made with actual card are eligible for tax receipt, not payments made with smart watch or phone



ANNUAL ORDINANDI SPIRITUAL BOUQUET:

A Spiritual bouquet is a **promise to offer spiritual act(s) for a specific cause**. It can combined with your other intentions (for example, I can offer my rosary for my children AND the ordinandi). As in past years we are gathering commitments of the following spiritual acts **for those being ordained to the priesthood in 2025** from the St. Augustine's Seminary and the Redemptoris Mater Seminary:

Masses, Communion, Rosaries, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrifices, Visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, and other forms of prayers

These offerings are not paid offerings and are to be completed over the course of the next year (2025). Ladies of the CWL will be available in the parish hall to note down your commitment after masses until March 2nd.

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