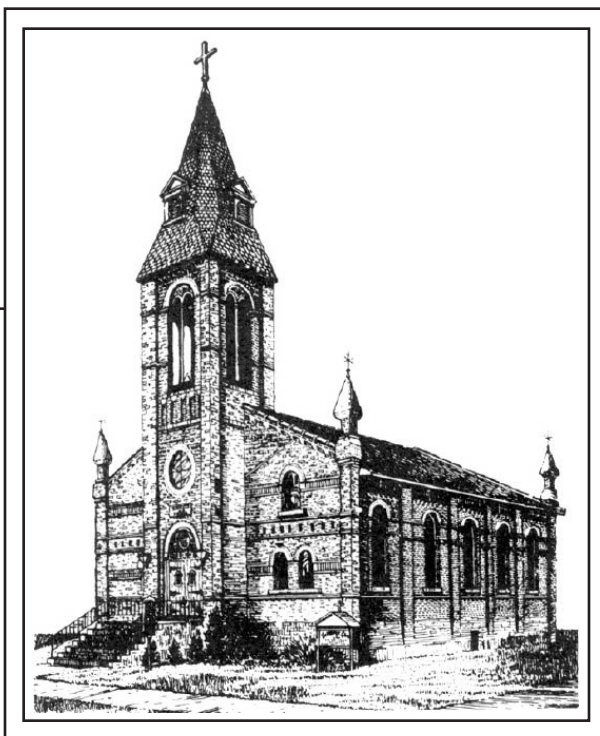


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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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.

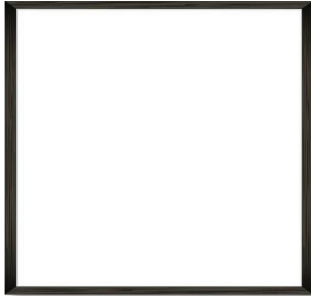
Catholic Women's League
President: Carol Johns
email: info@collewl.ca
647-241-4699

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last week, after I had been selected for jury duty, and while the trial I was on only took four days, I lost my day off and most of the remainder of the week. And, it just so happened that we had bad weather with drifting and blowing snow which made for poor visibility with hazardous road conditions. At times, when the drifts of snow along the roads were picked up by the gusting winds, I suddenly couldn't see a thing in front of me and, slowing down to a crawl, I prayed that no one was headed toward me or in my lane. Talk about white-knuckle driving! I took a picture while driving through one of the white-outs (*see below*) and you can well imagine how I couldn't see a thing.



No matter whether global warming has been renamed climate change, we haven't seen a winter of cold and snow like this for quite a few years, and it reminds me of the snow-piled winters when I was a child and the drifts and the piles of shovelled snow were way over

my head, (*though admittedly I was somewhat shorter back then and everything was much bigger to me than now*).

This has been a hard winter and I can scarcely believe that I was swimming off the pier here in Collingwood on September 29th last summer! On that day the water was still fairly warm as was the air on that sunny day with its gentle breeze. I remember that it was warm enough that I didn't need a towel each time I came out of the water for the sun itself dried me off. But December saw the snow start coming and looking back now it would almost seem that we haven't had a reprieve since then. Over the past few weeks, we have seen snow almost every day, and often quite a bit of it. And while the ever-busy snow ploughs have seen little rest along with their drivers, and the many towns people who had the luxury of a snow blower or the curse of a small snow shovel, everyone has been digging out trying to stay ahead of the accumulation. Our back parking lot behind the church has a mountain of snow and the contractors who plow it have no where else to put it except to pile it up. As you approach various intersections in town, the snow is so high that it is wise to slowly enter these crossroads inching slowly lest someone come barreling along and hit you.

In Job 38:22, among the many impossible questions God asks of Job, He says, *"Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail?"* I knew it. That's where all the snow is coming from – a storehouse! I wish they'd close it down, already! But seriously, snow in the scriptures (this image well described for those of us who see it every year), refers to what God wants to do in our souls, to make them white and clean. And the beautiful image from Isaiah 1:18, where God says to us poor sinners, *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though*

they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." The one advantage of this winter over many others before is that the snow has stayed and with each new blanket of snow, it has remained so dazzling white. Again, this is a beautiful metaphor for what scripture refers to as God's cleansing us of our sins. In Matthew 28:3, we hear of the angel of the Lord who comes down and rolls the stone away from the tomb Jesus had been laid in. The Gospel writer's description of the angel is such that, *"His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow"*. It's interesting to note that while the Holy Land, with its heat and more arid ground, rarely gets snow, yet is often enough used as a symbol for purity and the wondrous work of God's grace in our life that restores, cleans and makes new – white as snow.

Just after last weekend, we celebrated Canada's Family Day on Monday. The idea of this holiday long-weekend was partly initiated to give a bit of a break to the many who find this time of year, particularly February, depressing. Often enough we are hemmed in on every side by gray skies, sloppy streets, short days and longer nights, accompanied by snow and cold temperatures, which many find to be depressing and dark. Nature can and does sometimes share our mood. We didn't even get the break of a January thaw this year and 'Warton Willie' likely won't be popping his head out until some time in June when the last of the winter snow finally disappears. Ugh.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim,
worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

(Christina Rossetti's well-known poem, 1872) FrC

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues Feb 25 th 6:30pm to Mass 7:00pm	Confession +Audrey Torrie Requested by Chris Godin & Family
Wed Feb 26 th 8:30am	Special Intentions of Teresa & Feliks Kosierb Requested by Mary Cudney & Family
Thurs Feb 27 th 8:30am	Unnanounced Mass
Fri Feb 28 th 7:30am 8:30am	HOLY HOUR +Maria Targonska Requested by Richard Targonski
Sat Mar 1 st 3:30 to 4:00pm 4:30pm	Confession +Linda Ann Dickson Requested by Gal, Chodynski, Jagielski & Heppes Families
Sun Mar 2 nd 9:00am	+Deceased Members of Mannion Family Requested by Rise 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, Pat Ironside-Mayes

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Leo Larocque & Antoinette DiPaolo Bordonaro



The Sanctuary Lamp Burns

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



Regular Collection Feb 16th \$3321.66 (Inc PAG)

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

There will be two opportunities for parents to attend (with their child candidate) one of the two following meetings.

SUNDAY, March 2nd at 12:30 pm in the church

OR

WEDNESDAY, March 5th at 7:00 pm in the church

For full information please call the parish office, or check our website stmarysco.archtoronto.org under sacraments.

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

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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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