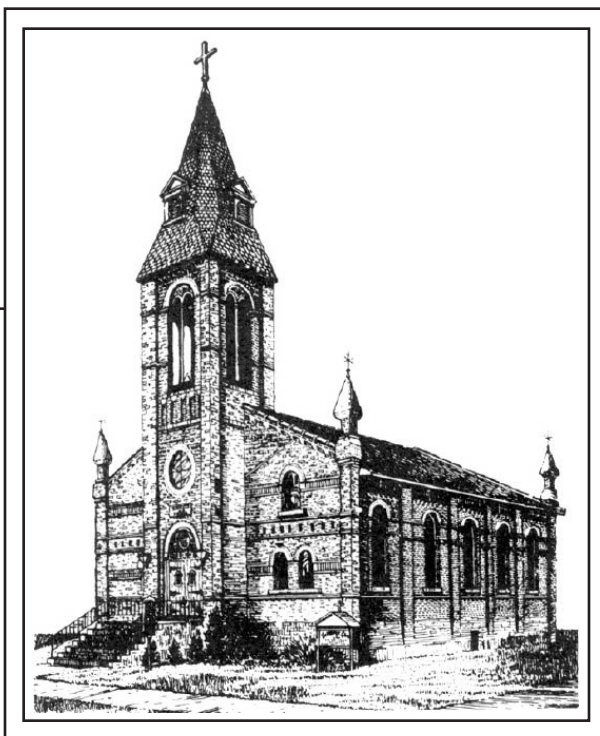


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
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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.
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

LENT: FIVE EVENINGS OF REFLECTION AT ST. MARY'S

Four of the five, one-hour Lenten Talks, will be given this coming *Thursday in the church at 7:00 pm:

***Thursday, March 20 Thursday, March 27**

Thursday, April 3 Thursday, April 10

The talks will be given by Father Charles

OUR CLOSEST FRIEND

"I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father." (John 15:15)

God is pure mystery and all that pertains to Him is mystery, not in some sense of a puzzle to be solved but that which cannot be fully perceived or made known to the human mind. Jesus becoming man is also a great mystery in that of all the various possible ways God could have saved us, He chose to send His own Son through to do it by the mystery of the incarnation, born of a woman who was a virgin and who conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit – again, yet another great mystery upon mystery. And, truth be told, we will never intellectually understand any of this except that it has been revealed to us in time.

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

There are many ways the word 'friend' could be defined. It could be someone we know well and one we spend a good deal of time with. There are friends that come and go throughout our lives and these tend to be friends of circumstance and place. And there are friends that are rare indeed because beyond where we live, they remain as good friends who keep in touch. However, there are friends that are close, best friends as some people would call them, and these are the rare few who are close to us and with whom we have shared much. And even beyond the times and opportunities we get to spend time with one another, we can pick up our last conversation and continue on for hours as if we hadn't been apart. Yet, even beyond the few close friends we have, there are those treasured friends with whom we can share our deepest selves as it is a friendship of great trust and understanding. We are our true selves with them and there is no false pretense with each other because we are our raw selves. Over the years I have had many friends where contact was lost as I moved from one place to the next. I have several friends I've known for decades and while our lives continued apart geographically, we still keep in touch and meet up when the opportunity arises. As for treasured friends, those we can share anything and everything with that comes from the very depths of our souls, who endure through time with us – not so many. And if we have just one, we have been blessed beyond words. Of this kind of friendship, Christian writer Agnes Sanford penned:

"The impulse of love that leads us to the doorway of a friend is the voice of God within and we need not be afraid to follow it."

JESUS' APOSTLES

Those who had been called personally by Jesus to be His Apostles were numbered and while they would have most certainly had

their differences because of their backgrounds and careers, I believe they had become friends. In John chapter 15 we are given a good picture of who the Apostles were in light of their call but also in respect to who Jesus is and is to them personally. Clearly, they are not equals. Jesus is God 'come in the flesh' and they are created beings who come with their own baggage of sins, weaknesses, competitiveness and bound minds. And in John 15 we see Jesus clarify the differences between He and themselves – "I am the Vine; you are the branches." They're connection to Him is as to the Source of life itself and without Him they, we, can do nothing. Cut off from Him, (sin), we would just die but living through Him we live, thrive and know great blessing as we know Him. Jesus speaks to them of the love His Father has for Him and reveals that He has the same love for them. And with the command to love, (which is strange when we tend to think of love as a feeling or a human emotion), He then tells them that they are His friends! Why has this relationship between God and man changed? Because Jesus has made known to them and us everything that He has heard from His Father. Everything? Yes, everything. He has shown them that we are no longer considered slaves (except to our own sin) because what Jesus reveals to us is now open and available to all. The relationship of God has changed, come near and we are to be friends of God. Could there be a better friend? No. Because as in all things Jesus is and Jesus does, He is the best friend, the model of all human friendship.

There is an old French proverb that says, "Friendship is the marriage of the soul". God, in His creating wisdom and love has instituted the human gift and need of friends, companions on the journey of life. And Christian friendship is such that it has two friends standing side by side both looking toward and seeking the same Christ together. It is a connection of souls. There is another saying that says, "Blessed is he who hungers for friends – for though he may not realise it, his soul is crying out for God." Jesus, as our greatest friend, gifts us with friends.

In Genesis 3:8, the closeness of God with Adam and Eve is evident when we are told "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day". The all-knowing God 'walked' in the Garden cognisant that Adam and Eve had sinned, fallen in doing what God warned them not to do. Yet this 'walking of God' would suggest the closeness that God had with them in that they walked with God – this, the God whom no one could see and live! This 'friendship with God, once known by our first parents, is so beautifully restored in Jesus' words "I have called you friends". And lest we should think that Jesus loosely proclaims His friendship with us, we must realize that it comes with a great cost – to Christ. Jesus had just told the Apostles that "No one has greater love than this—that one lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." (Jn. 15:13-14) We are the friends of Jesus with the proviso that we follow His commands, principally the command to love, which is a verb, an action and living-out.

Of course, Jesus, as in all things of which He spoke, fulfilled His love for the Apostles, for us, as His friends when He indeed laid down His life for us in His Death on the Cross. Should we not, in loving Him back, desire to do the same? (Fr. Charles)



Tues Mar 18 th 6:30pm to Mass 7:00pm	Confession +Joseph Szydziak Requested by the O'Hearn Family
Wed Mar 19 th 8:30am	God's Blessing on Lassak Family
Thurs Mar 20 th 7:30am 8:30am	HOLY HOUR Intentions of the Ordinandi Requested by Mary Cudney
Fri Mar 21 st 6:30pm 7:00pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS +Mato Krajinovic Requested by wife Katherine & Family
Sat Mar 22 nd 3:00 to 4:00pm 4:30pm	Confession Special Intentions of the Guerrero Family
Sun Mar 23 rd 9:00am 11:00am	For the People +Ken Matthews Requested by Clare & Gene Bisogno

Please Pray for the Sick

Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Albert Sant, Teresa Kosierb, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Alex Poirier & Family, Tammy MacDonald, Anita Taglione, Mary Little, Yvonne Grimm, Janine Wright, Anne Johnston, Dorothy Shaughnessy, Rose Flanagan, Norma Still, Pat Ironside-Mayes, Yvonne Besley, Bev Underhill

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Jim Marshall, Felix Kosierb, Lorne Winkler



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



Regular Collection Mar 9th
\$4566.00 (Inc PAG)
Sharelife Collection
\$2924.00



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Jubilee 2025: Lenten Pilgrimage

In his homily at each of the Jubilee Regional masses Cardinal Leo strongly encouraged each individual/family to consider a visit/pilgrimage to one or more of the designated Pilgrimage Churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto during this special year of blessings. A listing of these churches and resources for your visit can be found at: <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/year-of-prayer/home/pilgrimage-churches/>

In addition, for those wishing to receive a Plenary Indulgence through their visit to a Pilgrimage church, further information can be found at:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/year-of-prayer/home/plenary-indulgence/>

2nd Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025

You extend the hands of Christ to those in need ShareLife Sunday is March 30. Through your support of ShareLife, you extend the hands of Christ to those in need: the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized in our community. Because you care, more than 40 agencies provide strength to people of all ages in their weakest moments. You've been there for young parents as they worried about their next meal, isolated seniors yearning for companionship, teenagers seeking guidance in a confusing world, refugees longing to rebuild their lives, and people with special needs striving for dignity and acceptance. Thank you for living the Gospel through your compassion.

Our parish goal this year is \$46,500.00. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

LENTEN COLLECTION

We have been approached by Dr. Simone (Canadian Food for Children) to do a Lenten Collection for the poor. They are asking that we collect **iodized salt** very important in developing countries, as 38 million newborn babies are affected by iodine deficiency every year. **Cans of meat and fish, soap bars, new socks and shoes.** The shoes can help prevent strongyloidiasis, which is a type of worm that burrows into the skin from walking barefoot. We will have totes in the hallway between the church and the hall. We will collect right through the Lenten season. Thank You.

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