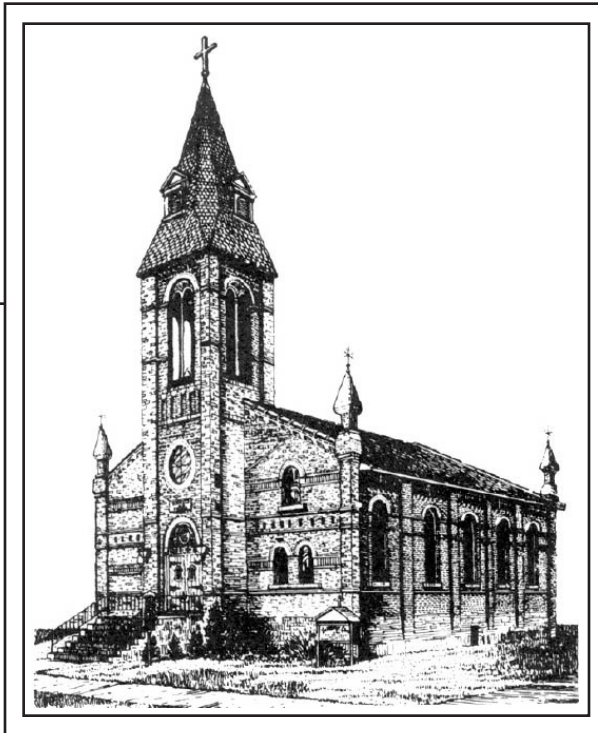


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Fax: 705-445-9659
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Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



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

'She Won't Let Go': Elderly Couple Hold Hands for the Last Time While Being Hospitalized Together

(Epoch Times, by Louise Chambers, Oct. 26, 2025)



An elderly couple, both 91, demonstrated the pinnacle of love in their 69-year marriage when they were both hospitalized at the same time. Their beds were placed side by side, and their hands were clasped together

until the very end.

High school sweethearts Virginia Stevens and Doyle Thomas Stevens were both admitted to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) in Nashville, Tennessee, for unrelated health emergencies. Mr. Stevens was eventually transferred to the palliative care unit, but when kind staff acknowledged that the couple wanted to be together, they moved Ms. Stevens's bed right next to his.

In a heartwarming act, Ms. Stevens placed her frail hand in her dying husband's and never let go.

The couple's daughter, Karen Kreager, said both her parents "lit up" when her mother entered her father's hospital room.

"He was awake when she came in," Ms. Kreager told VUMC Voice. "His eyes were open. He wasn't communicating a lot—just in small whispers. But he knew that she was there and that she was going to be right beside him."

Through it all, she didn't let go and kept holding his hand.

Holding her husband's hand helped her too. She said: "It just gave me peace that I wouldn't have to worry about him. He was going to be with me." Mr. Stevens, who had Alzheimer's disease and was living in an assisted living facility with his wife was recently admitted to VUMC with labored breathing and dangerously low blood pressure. Doctors diagnosed aspiration pneumonia and sepsis. When illness took over his body and no treatment seemed to be effective, he was moved to the medical center's palliative care unit. The very same morning, Ms. Stevens had a fall and her concerned son called an ambulance although she said she was fine.

She was admitted for six broken ribs, a spinal fracture, and an injured hip. Ms. Kreager had joked with her mother, "Really, we think that you just needed to check on Dad, and that was your ride."

When VUMC staff noticed the extended family's struggle, bouncing between the palliative care unit and the trauma intensive care unit to check on each elderly relative, they decided to get the couple together. Ms. Kreager was grateful to be able to "focus on both of them at the same time," but most of all that they could share the same room.

For Dr. Mohana Karlekar of VUMC's adult palliative care program, bringing the Stevenses together reminded her of why she does what she does.

"We take care of people—husbands, wives, mothers, fathers—not patients," she said. "I watched Mrs. Stevens tease her grandson, and her grandson and granddaughter in turn tease her back, feed her yogurt and drinks, and just rejoice in each other's company. ... It is a reminder to me about how each of us should remember that taking just a little time can be so impactful, and that we should do this more often."

Mr. and Ms. Stevens spent 69 years in a happy marriage and shared the same Christian faith. They moved around while Mr. Stevens was enlisted with the U.S. Army. They raised two children, founded numerous businesses in the transport industry, and retired to Franklin, Tennessee, to be closer to their grandchildren and their great-grandchild.

Side by side in their hospital beds, the couple reminisced about vacations to their Florida beach house, Christmas holidays, and tables adorned with Lebanese treats, an homage to Ms. Stevens's heritage.

On Sept. 8—a day before his 69th wedding anniversary—Mr. Stevens passed away peacefully with his wife and loving family by his bedside. Nine days later, on Sept. 17, Ms. Stevens passed away.



The beautiful story above speaks of the reality that as we live, so we die. Living in loving relationships is the call of Christ to everyone: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" (Jn. 13:34) During November, the Universal Church remembers all the dead—those we have known and loved, as well as those who have loved us—who have died in this world. We should embody this reality now, not waiting for death, but actively dying to this world and the distractions that pull us away from life with Christ.

Why is it essential that we remember all who have died? Because doing so means we especially remember them in prayer, asking for the eternal good and happiness of their souls, for the mercy of God, and for them to see the beautiful face of Jesus forever. We do so carefully, not assuming that anyone who has died went straight to heaven; in fact, we should not assume but pray again and again for their eternal souls. If they are in purgatory, their time there will be short, aided by the prayers of the living on earth (the Church militant). The souls in purgatory can pray for us, and we can and must pray for them, since they cannot pray for themselves. All who have died are in need of our intercession before God on their behalf as this is the love we ought to show them before God that we desire they be granted mercy, forgiveness of their sins and the highest glory to be with Christ.

I have often said at funerals over the last few years that the 'homework of those who gather and mourn the death of someone is not to merely remember them but to also pray for them. To remember only another is to reduce a person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be nothing more than a memory. No. We are human beings given rational souls that desire God both now and forever. Pray for all souls. (Fr. C)



Tues Nov 4 th 7:00pm	+Louis Vella Requested by Josephine Vella & Family
Wed Nov 5 th 8:30am	+Souls in Purgatory Requested by Fernanda Cardeiro
Thurs Nov 6 th 8:30am	Intentions of Maria Consuelo Oxales Requested by Rebecca Wedge
Fri Nov 7 th 7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	+Ivan Hrvojic Requested by the Krajinovic Family
Sat Nov 8 th 8:30am	+Brendan Carson Requested by Genevieve & Clark Carson
4:30pm	+Deceased Members of the Gal, Jagielski, Chodynski, Zdybal & Zych Families Requested by the Family
Sun Nov 9 th 9:00am	+For all the Faithful Departed
11:00am	+For all the Faithful Departed

Please Pray for the Sick

Mary Little, Alex Poirier, Denis Fennessy, Hudson Ford, Yvonne Grimm.



Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the Intentions of Sonia, Mark, Luis & Philip Cardeiro Nov 2nd to Nov 29th, 25



Regular Collection Oct 26 th 2025	
Inc. PAG	\$4651.30
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Church Bulletin Advertising

Liturgical Publications will setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2025 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1 800 268 2637

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BOTTLE DRIVE

This is the final weekend for the Knights of Columbus bottle drive. There will be a container set up behind the church hall. Thank you as always for your continued support.

SENIOR WISH – BAGS OF LOVE

Christmas Senior Wish are resuming their *Bags of Love* Campaign for seniors who reside in long-term care and in the community who would otherwise not receive gifts. This is our fourth year involved in this campaign and it has been a huge success. The boxes will be out in the hallway, and the lists of items needed will be listed on the box, I will also put some photocopies of items listed on the shelf. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the office. **The deadline for drop off is November 22nd and 23rd.**



MISSALS

Missals are available for purchase in the little store at the back of the church, or from the parish office. The cost is \$7.00. Please put money in the box provided. Thank You

WE REMEMBER ALL SOULS MASSES

If you would like to remember your “loved ones” in the Masses through the month of November please pick-up an offering envelope at the front of the church, fill it out and put it in the basket provided, there is also a book of remembrance to sign.



CWL Christmas Market - This is the last weekend that we are receiving donations for our themed basket & silent auction. It is also the last weekend for signing up to bake for our bake sale table. Sign up sheets are at both entrances of the church. The donation bin is in the parish hall. Thank you for your generous support.

CWL Christmas Market Nov. 15th & 16th

Be sure to stop in at our very first Christmas Market in the Fr. Ellard Hall. There will be lots of themed raffle baskets, silent auction items, and baked goods table, skill testing game, beautiful outerwear sale, vendor tables and refreshments. This is the perfect place to start your Christmas shopping! Market hours are Saturday Nov. 15th from 9 am to 6 pm and Sunday Nov. 16th from 10 am to 1 pm. The market is closed during all the Masses.

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