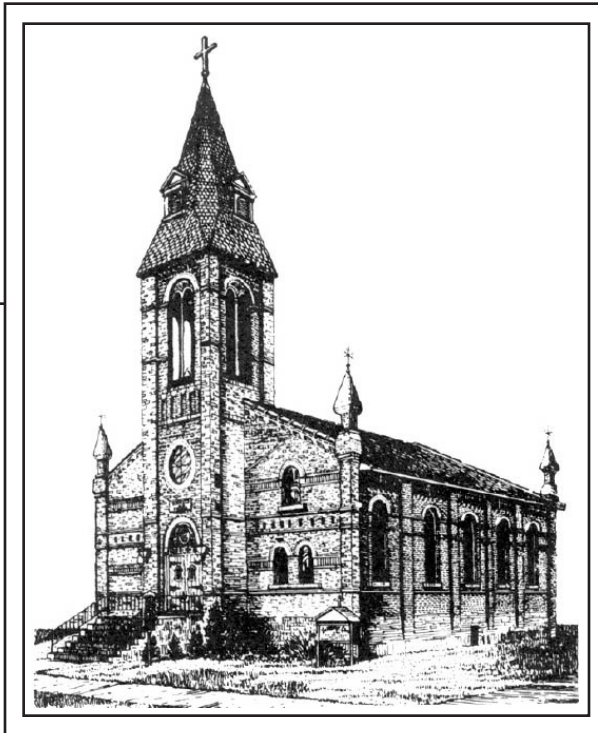


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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

PRA YING FOR THE DEAD

The Sacrifice for the Dead

Many Christians might believe that there are no biblical references supporting praying for those who have died, thinking it would be futile since their lives are over and they will be judged based on their actions in the body. In other words, ‘It’s too late for them.’ However, two books in the Catholic and Orthodox Bibles, 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees, address the topic of praying for the dead. Protestant scholars do not consider these books and five others as inspired, viewing them as having historical value but not including them in the canon of Scripture. Nonetheless, it is both fascinating and explicit that the Bible does support the teaching that we should and must pray for the dead, as shown in the Second Book of Maccabees, 12:32-46. It recounts a battle where the Lord heard Judas’ prayer to God for help, resulting in only a few Jews being killed. When Judas and his soldiers went to gather and bury the slain, they found that some had amulets hidden under their tunics—images of pagan idols, which were, of course, forbidden for the Jewish people to wear. Judas understood that these men fell because they had betrayed their trust in the God of Israel, who would grant them victory over their enemies. They praised and thanked the Lord for His intervention, recognising that the Lord had revealed His knowledge to them—knowledge He already possessed as God. God sees and knows all. So, what did they do in response? They prayed for God’s forgiveness for the souls of those Jews who had betrayed God and sinned against Him by relying on false, pagan gods.

Why would they do this? Why pray to God for His forgiveness for those who had died? Were they not already judged in the sense that God permitted their deaths on the battlefield because they relied on false idols instead of the One God the Jews worshipped? And if this praying for the dead Jews who were slain in battle by the enemy went against God, why would they think God would forgive them, let alone listen to their prayers that He do so through Judas and his men? No. It was not offensive to God that they prayed and interceded for those who had sinned and died in their sin.

“After the feast called Pentecost, they lost no time in marching against Gorgias, governor of Idumea, who opposed them with three thousand foot soldiers and four hundred horsemen. In the ensuing battle, a few of the Jews were slain.

A man called Dositheus, a powerful horseman and one of Bacenor’s men, caught hold of Gorgias, grasped his military cloak and dragged him along by main strength, intending to capture the vile wretch alive, when a Thracian horseman attacked Dositheus and cut off his arm at the shoulder. Then Gorgias fled to Marisa. After Esdris and his men had been fighting for a long time and were weary, Judas called upon the Lord to show himself their ally and leader in the battle. Then, raising a battle cry in his ancestral language, and with songs, he charged Gorgias’ men when they were not expecting it and put them to flight.

Judas rallied his army and went to the city of Adullam. As the week was ending, they purified themselves according to custom and kept the sabbath there. On the following day, since the task had now become urgent, Judas and his men went to gather up the

bodies of the slain and bury them with their kinsmen in their ancestral tombs. But under the tunic of each of the dead they found amulets sacred to the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. So it was clear to all that this was why these men had been slain.

They all therefore praised the ways of the Lord, the just judge who brings to light the things that are hidden. Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas warned the soldiers to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

Judas Maccabeus led the Jewish people in war against their enemies and, as noted above, recognised that their great victory was due to God, not their own efforts. Judas, as leader, instructed his soldiers after the battle not to give in to sin, mindful of those fallen Jews who had trusted in pagan idols (the wearing of amulets) and had died. Yet, even for those who had been killed, offending God could and should be prayed for. They collected money to send for a sacrifice to be made on behalf of the dead. Today, at every Mass, we pray for the dead, both for those who died as Christians believing in Jesus and for all those whose “faith is known to God alone”. So, pray for all who have died, trusting only in God’s goodness. (Fr. Charles)

Adopt a St. Mary’s Christmas Tree

Each Christmas, both St. Mary’s parishioners and visitors comment on how beautifully the Christmas decorations adorn the sanctuary and the church. It is a significant effort, involving hours of preparation for the decorations themselves, as well as setting them up with the Christmas trees, lights, flowers, and, of course, the manger.

It usually takes most of a day to prepare the church for Christmas. Over the past few years, we have had to dispose of old, tired-looking trees that had reached the end of their lifespan, replacing them with newer trees that look very realistic and feature better lighting systems. This year, we have purchased three new, larger trees – a 12-foot and two 7.5-foot trees to enhance the sacred atmosphere of the sanctuary better. They are of high quality and are expected to last for many years to come. In addition to the cost of the flowers, I would like to invite our parishioners to consider donating to help cover the expense of the new trees. Gifts of \$100 or more would be appreciated, or any affordable amount. You can donate by placing it in an envelope marked ‘Christmas Trees,’ along with your name, envelope number, and/or your complete mailing address for a tax receipt.



Thank You (Fr. Charles)

MASS   **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

- Tue Nov 18th
 7:00pm +Louis Vella
 Requested by Josephine & Family
- Wed Nov 19th
 8:30am Red Mass for Persecuted Christians
- Thurs Nov 20th
 8:30am +Souls in Purgatory
 Requested by Fernanda Cardeiro
- Fri Nov 21st
 7:30am HOLY HOUR
 8:30am +Diana Bidinoft
 Requested by Maureen Whittaker
- Sat Nov 22nd
 8:30am +Norma & Don Carson
 Requested by Genevieve & Clark Carson
- 4:30pm +Norma Still
 Requested by Geraldine & Frank Bondi
- Sun Nov 23rd
 9:00am For the People
- 11:00am +David & Andy Calado
 Requested by Maria Helena Calado

Please Pray for the Sick

Mary Little, Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford,
 Yvonne Grimm, Siobhan McKee



Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Jean Stewart, Denis Fennessy, Hannah Gonneau



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



Regular Collection Nov 9th 2025
 Inc. PAG \$4777.35
 ShareLife \$32,489.90



CEMETERY – REMOVAL OF DECORATIONS

The Cemetery officially closes December 1st for the winter. We ask you to please remove any items that are on or around the grave before December 1st. Only wreaths with stands or saddle wreaths are permitted during the winter months. This helps tremendously with clean up. Anything left will be removed, thank you for your compliance.

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.**



Shepherds Trust Collection – Nov 15-16 2025

There will be a second collection for The Shepherds' Trust this weekend. The mission of The Shepherds' Trust is to help ensure that elderly and disabled priests are provided with sufficient financial resources to lead a dignified life after many years of ministry. Your generous gift will help our priests to maintain a modest but active and independent lifestyle in their retirement years. For priests who are ill or otherwise infirm, the Trust ensures they have access to nursing home facilities and medical care. Thank you for your support of this important work.

**Tim Hortons and St. Vincent de Paul,
 Collingwood invite you**

to create SMILES in our community from Nov.17th – 23rd. St. Vincent de Paul in Collingwood is thrilled to be the recipient of this year's program! We plan to knock it out of the park to help more neighbours in our beautiful community! Tim Horton's restaurant owners will be supporting our local charity along with community groups and Tim's Camps across Canada! Guests who purchase freshly baked Holiday Smile Cookies will be donating to these great causes!

100% OF ALL COOKIE PROCEEDS ARE BEING DONATED

**UNITED IN PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED
 CHRISTIANS on RED WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER
 19, 25**

On Wednesday, November 19 2025, people around the world will mark Red Wednesday, an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need (CAN). This global day highlights the persecution of Christians and reminds us that religious freedom is a human right. The Archdiocese of Toronto invites the Catholic community to participate in Mass at 5:30pm at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, where Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto will preside. By attending the Mass, wearing red, or organizing local activities, you stand in solidarity with those who suffer for their faith. More info: www.acn-canada.org/rw. Contact: el@acn-canada.org or 416 785-0498. An ACN Canada initiative with the support of the Archdiocese of Toronto. On Wednesday, November 19th 8:30am Mass here at St. Mary's will be offered for the persecuted Christians as a Red Mass.

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