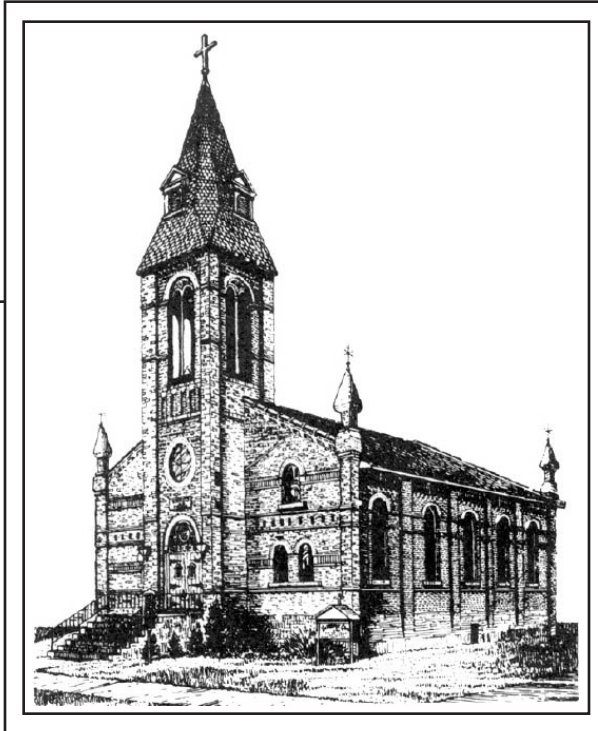


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Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org



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

...AND SADNESS FLEE AWAY

These are the last words in our well-known Advent song "O Come Divine Messiah!" There is no avoiding, I suppose, a sense of "let's get Advent out of the way to prepare for the 25th", but the wisdom of the Church in choosing its scriptures for this Sunday reminds us to continue to be ready, to make straight our paths to the Lord. "Who" Jesus is perplexed not only John the Baptist but confronts us still as we seek to follow him.

For me, if I should ever be sad, it is not mindless games that can shake me from my mood, but rather the work of the artist who can paint the scenes I see and feel inwardly; the poet who can speak of what I sense; the composer and the musician who can lead me to think that they know what it is to feel as I feel. I turn to that great poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who wrote *Day Is Done*.

DAY IS DONE

**The day is done, and the darkness
Falls from the wings of night,
As a feather is wafted downward
From an eagle in his flight.
I see the lights of the village
Gleam through the rain and the mist,
And a feeling of sadness comes o'er me
That my soul cannot resist:
A feeling of sadness and longing,
That is not akin to pain,
And resembles sorrow only
As the mist resembles the rain.
Come, read to me some poem,
Some simple and heartfelt lay,
That shall soothe this restless feeling,
And banish the thoughts of day.
Not from the grand old masters,
Not from the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo
Through the corridors of Time.
For, like strains of martial music,
Their mighty thoughts suggest
Life's endless toil and endeavor;
And tonight I long for rest.
Read from some humbler poet,
Whose songs gushed from his heart,
As showers from the clouds of summer,
Or tears from the eyelids start;
Who, through long days of labor,
And nights devoid of ease,
Still heard in his soul the music
Of wonderful melodies.
Such songs have power to quiet
The restless pulse of care,
And come like the benediction
That follows after prayer.
Then read from the treasured volume
The poem of thy choice,
And lend to the rhyme of the poet
The beauty of thy voice.
And the night shall be filled with music
And the cares, that infest the day,
Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.**

Ah, the music of words from the poets' experience, perception, pen and mind. While sadness is real just as physical pain is real, they are not in and of themselves all powerful. We need to recognize them for what they are, temporary feelings and sensations that will pass in time. Here I am not talking about people who suffer from depression due to a chemical imbalance, as real and as awful as this can be, for these can sometimes be treated with therapy and medical treatment. But I am addressing those whose sadness comes from the helplessness of their life situations whose symptoms cannot be readily remedied with a pat on the back and a "there, there, now - everything's going to be all right". There is a need for those who are sad to face their pain and work through what they feel in order to one day be able to move on, especially when moving on seems the hardest thing to do. When, for example, someone is suffering from the death of a life-partner in a husband, or wife, or in the death of a child, while grief is real it is something to journey through towards a sense of healing so that while the one we have lost and the loss we feel will never truly go away, time itself can bring about that healing with the aid, support and love of others who have been through the same things we have.

In the Christian context, suffering is not something to be avoided or swept under the carpet as if it were all in our minds: it is rather to be confronted. Sometimes in the face of great sorrow, sadness and grief, there is a tendency to think that if we just busy ourselves with other things and other thoughts and even other people, the sadness will go away and the pain will disappear. However, this is not true and avoidance is not healthy. If we bury things or deny them, they still go somewhere and will no doubt surface again when our resistance is down. Christ tells us that in this life, in our human existence, we will experience sorrow and sadness, pain, suffering and grief, and that these will be real just as his suffering and death on the Cross were real. But Jesus also tells us that our "sorrow will be turned to joy" as His was! Yet it is not "pie in the sky when you die" that Jesus addresses here, rather it is the truth that even in this life here on earth are we meant to experience the "abundant life" he spoke of. The abundant life is not a life of ease and mindless bliss that we might project into our thoughts of retirement, but it is living in and having the perspective and truth of what life really is all about, and having this truth touch the realities of the ups and downs of our lives.

The real sadness of this world is found in those who do not know or will not allow the reality and presence of God and His unfolding plan for their lives now and always to penetrate their being. There is a new world coming and its truth is meant not only to touch but also colour our perception and understanding of this world that is, in fact, passing away. Love cannot eliminate pain but it certainly can soften it, and there is no other love that is like that of our God. We will only understand fully the redemptive character in pain and suffering when we are with the Lord forever in the fullness of the life that is to come, for then we shall see.

*O come divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day,
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away!*

(Blessed Advent! Fr. Charles)

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tue Dec 2nd

7:00pm +Louis Vella
Requested by Josephine & Family

Wed Dec 3rd

8:30am +Henryka & Zygmunt Szewczyk
Requested by the Cudney Family

Unannounced Mass

Thurs Dec 4th

8:30am +Jolanta Okon
Requested by Janusz Okon

Fri Dec 5th

7:30am HOLY HOUR
8:30am Intentions of Cathy Nesbitt
Requested by Helen & Len McGuire

Unannounced Mass

Sat Dec 6th

8:30am Unannounced Mass

4:30pm +Jean Van Benthem
Requested by Joe Van Benthem

Sun Dec 7th

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, Mary Elliot



Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

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DAY OF CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT

Wednesday December 17th
9:00am to 11:00am
6:00pm to 8:00pm



SENIOR WISH - BAGS OF LOVE

We wish to send out a big thank you to everyone who donated to the Senior wish. Again, the response was amazing. This will bring some warmth and joy to the seniors in the community who have no family of their own.



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

2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Over the next few weeks, I will be getting the offertory envelopes ready for 2026. For anyone who does not use envelopes and would like to start using envelopes, please give me a call at the parish office and I will add you to my list.

ST. MARY'S CWL - THANK YOU

St. Mary's CWL would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to all CWL Members & parishioners who donated their time, talents, new items, baked goods or just attended our first ever Christmas Market. As a result it was a HUGE SUCCESS! We could not have done it without YOU! Your support helps us to continue the work we do!

Catholic Mom's Group

Meetup Wed Dec 3/2025 9:30-11am in the Church Hall
"Drawing Closer to God"
Children welcome. Bring some colouring pencils
RSVP to Bernadette
stmaryscwoodmoms@gmail.com

**1st Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025
Your gift to ShareLife will double in value!**

NEW: Your gift will double in value! From November 3 until year end, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000. ShareLife-funded agencies and Food Security Grant recipients are responding to families facing difficult situations, comforting seniors with fellowship, distributing meals to our neighbours in need, and so much more. Your sacrificial gift this Advent makes this support possible. You offer immediate relief, restore hope, and remind your brothers and sisters in Christ that they are not alone; that there is a family of faith who cares deeply for them. Our goal this year is [insert goal amount]. To date we have achieved [insert amount raised]. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

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