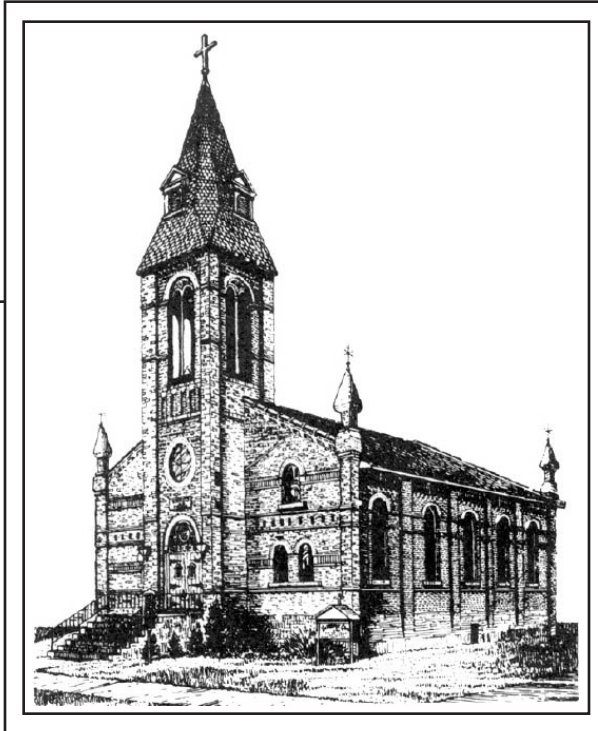


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
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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

ADVENT and FORMED.ORG

Our parishioners have full and unrestricted access to the excellent media platform called 'Formed'. We pay an affordable yearly subscription fee, along with many other parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto, which allows our parishioners to access some of the most remarkable Catholic media content available today. There are talks on a wide range of topics from prayer to Advent, to education about the Church's teachings, the Bible and many topics. There are movies, documentaries and films covering a broad spectrum of Catholic content.

HOW TO GET FORMED

1. Go to the signup page by visiting formed.org/signup or formed.org and click "Sign Up".
2. Select parishioner registration: choose the option that says "I belong to a Parish or Organization".
3. **Find your parish:** use the search bar to find your parish by entering the postal code **L9Y 3L6** and click "sign up".
4. **Select St. Mary's Collingwood** from the list that appears.
5. **Enter your information:** first name and last name along with your email address.
6. **Check your email for a message from Formed. Click the link in the email to begin using the service.**

There are also many programs on Formed, specifically for Advent, for both children and adults. Enjoy! (Fr. Charles)

T'is The SEASON!

It's that season of the Church come round again - the season of Advent - when we PREPARE for the coming of the Lord in HISTORY, in MYSTERY, and in the SECOND COMING. Allow me, if you will, to offer a bit of a challenge to you (and to me) about the opportunity this time of waiting and preparation offers. And before you are all inundated with "Advent-is" homilies, where the preachers of parishes far and wide barrage you with varied definitions on what the meaning of Advent is supposed to be, might I offer here a way of looking at these four Sundays before Christmas in a way that might change your outlook on your celebration of Christmas this year.

We would be flat out wrong to say that Advent is merely the time to get ready for Jesus' birthday; in fact, the secularization of December 25th (in all of us) has turned this critical feast of Christianity into a deadline. You've got to fit in the open houses (outgoing and incoming), the office parties, the staff parties, the Christmas concert at the school. Then there's the shopping, the parking, the busier stores, and the overall theme of buying yourself happy. We've got to figure out who we're buying for (and who were dropping this year), our budget, our credit card limit and the general politics of making everybody happy. There are also the worthwhile charitable needs we contribute to and, in many ways, these tend to make us more conscious of what Christmas is about.

There are the slogans we will hear, which serve as the annual mantra in our brains, telling us that Christmas isn't just about Jesus; it's about giving expensive presents to people who don't

really need them and the usual return we expect on our investment.

And I think that is why Christmas itself finds so many people exhausted and even feeling let down. It can be so much build up for an event that has, in itself, not been focused on Jesus at all. And this is where our challenge taken up now comes in.

To truly grasp and enter into the mystery and beauty of Advent, we must look far beyond the Nativity of our Lord to all of history, even back to Genesis. In the beginning, God created... and that fact alone reveals God's desire and intention to be in relationship with us. It's not that God needed us - God didn't - but out of love itself. We were made in His image and likeness, which speaks volumes about what we were meant to be. Year after year, generation after generation, covenant after covenant, God has remained faithful to us, even though we, as a people, have often been unfaithful to what God has asked. Throughout history, God has planted in contemplative and faithful hearts His intention to provide a way out of our recurring unfaithfulness and sin - that a Messiah, a Saviour, would be sent to save us from ourselves.

If we were to think that the Old Testament alone spoke through the words of prophecy and the promise of a coming Messiah, we would be grossly mistaken. Many of the ancient pagan civilizations had heard prophecies among their own which pointed to an expected Saviour and in ways that were so particular to Christ and no other. Tacitus, Suetonius, Cicero and the civilizations of China as well as the Greeks had their own prophecies about a Messiah who was to come. Plato and Socrates spoke of the *Logos* and of the Universal Man "yet to come", the Sibyls of a "Universal King" and even the Greek dramatist, in a saviour and redeemer to unloose humankind from the "primal eldest curse". In a word, Jesus, unlike all other founders of religions and faiths, was *expected!*

This truth necessarily places a challenge on all of us who consider ourselves to be his followers: to truly be prepared in our heads and in our hearts, not only to recall the fact that he was expected and fulfilled that expectation in his first coming as an infant babe at Bethlehem and in his subsequent three-year ministry and proclamation of the Kingdom, his suffering, death and resurrection. It also challenges us to remember that He said he would come back again at a time we wouldn't know. This fact is a present-tense reality and therefore, should change our attitude towards celebrating His birth and the way we live today, this day, now.

If Jesus were to return today, and if there were things you still needed to do to be prepared for that return, are you truly ready? That's what Advent is really about. Reflecting on the past is important, provided we avoid doing so in a superficial way that turns the baby Jesus into the equivalent of a new puppy. This baby was and is the Son of God, the Messiah, the long-anticipated One, who saved us from ourselves by being painfully crucified. Our remembrance of the past must focus on the true meaning of Jesus' birth—to save us, to take our place—rather than on the many false and fictitious interpretations. With this understanding, we have the proper context for our current, daily Advent cry to the Lord: "O Come, Divine Messiah"! (Fr. Charles)



MASS *SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS*

Tue Dec 9th
 7:00pm In Thanksgiving of Mary
 Requested by Dercilia Furtado

Wed Dec 10th
 8:30am +Nora McLaughlin & Deceased members of
 Family
 Requested by the Cudney Family

+Barbara Cree
 Requested by Helen & Len McGuire

Thurs Dec 11th
 8:30am Intentions of Jacqueline Wong

Fri Dec 12th
 7:30am HOLY HOUR
 8:30am Intentions of Andrew Jagielski
 Requested by the Family

Unannounced Mass

Sat Dec 13th
 8:30am +Harris Thompson
 Requested by Genevieve & Clark Carson

4:30pm +Elizabetta Cutone
 Requested by Antonietta & Domenic
 Sanfilippo

Sun Dec 14th
 9:00am +David & Andy Calado
 Requested by Maria Helena Calado

11:00am For the People

Please Pray for the Sick

Mary Little, Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford,
 Siobhan McKee, Mary Elliot.



Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Yvonne Grimm, Margaret Patfield
 Father John Charles Govan, S.J.
 Trudi Cortens,



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 all the Souls in Purgatory.
 Nov 30th to Dec 27th, 25



Regular Collection Nov 30th, 2025
 Inc. PAG \$6821.85
 ShareLife \$35,125.90



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

Offertory envelopes are 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. They will be in alphabetical order in the parish hall.

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 7, 2025
Your contribution to ShareLife will be matched dollar-for-dollar!

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.*

As we approach the end of the year, your loving support is crucial, as ShareLife-funded agencies strive to bring hope and relief to those facing their most challenging times. Jesus speaks to us through our brothers and sisters in need (cf. Mt 25:31-45). In every gift we give to them, there is a reflection of God's love. Your sacrificial gift this Advent can provide essential support and comfort to those in desperate need, showing them that they are not alone during trying times.

Our goal this year is \$46,500.00. To date we have achieved \$35,125.90. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

DAY OF CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT

Wednesday December 17th

9:00am to 11:00am
 6:00pm to 8:00pm



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

The Masses for Christmas and New Year's will be as follows:

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
4:30pm and 6:30pm

Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
9:00am and 11:00am

Feast of the Holy Family/New Year's Eve
Wednesday, December 31

4:30pm

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God/New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1
10:00am

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