

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

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## *Feast of the Holy Family*

### RESOLUTIONS

Now is the time—probably for all of us in one way or another—when people consider making changes in their lives. It's a pity that it takes turning a page on the calendar to prompt us to think of new resolutions, yet this is a reality the Church herself has always presented to us. I believe the Church is far more influential on the world we live in (and could always be more), and that the world often unwittingly tries to adapt or recreate what the Church has already discovered through the revelation of Christ Jesus.

Take, for example, our seasonal Church year. Just as nature itself has seasons marked by weather changes that affect migration patterns, hibernation for some animals and fish, and even signal to small creatures to prepare for what is to come, so the Church uses Her liturgical seasons to remind us that each season calls us to stay awake, be watchful, and be ready for what is ahead. While we may grow tired of hearing the same messages about “being ready,” we must be careful not to fall into the trap of thinking that this earthly life in our human form is all there is, because it is not!

If we consider the earth itself and our place on it in time as being a full human person, then we would see that part of us is physical and is meant to be used to earn our living by the sweat of our brow and to use our bodily form to till the earth, feed ourselves, grow, and survive. Another part of that whole person is the mind that is used to think about who we are, our purpose, and the meaning of our existence, and through learning and time come to grapple with the mysteries of ourselves. The mind of the world should seek to better itself and know more about what it is to “be,” never resting or being satisfied with what is known presently, but always fully aware that there is so much more than we presently and possibly do know now. The mind of the world can venture far beyond itself to contemplate the possibilities of what exists in other minds and in other places.

And then there is—and must be—the “soul” of the world, which is that very energy and power that brings this body and mind to life and existence. This is the realm of the spiritual, the invisible, and the “really real” of things. It is also the part of the person that seeks Someone beyond ourselves—Someone who is beyond all of us and what we are, who created us and makes all things “happen.” We know this Someone as God.

Many people today, as throughout history, believe that only the body and mind exist, with no soul. Accordingly, this life is everything, and once bodily and mental life ends, we cease to exist—there is nothing else. They also argue that belief in a higher power, like God, is simply humans' weak attempt to imagine eternal life. These views always lack the element of revelation; God is not a human invention or created in our image because, if that were true, we would be gods ourselves, having fashioned His image. Modern movements like the New Age promote such ideas, but we are not gods. We are created and shaped by an external force—God—who has revealed Himself to us, not because we imagined Him for comfort or to quell fears. The God we seek has instilled in us a longing, a hunger, and a thirst for Him—He made



us that way—so we can never find complete fulfilment in anything or anyone else.

And what is the purpose of our existence? To arrive at the fullness of the truth revealed in God's self-disclosure through Christ Jesus, without being complicit, humans are complicit with a world that sees no existence beyond itself by living solely for the moment and for ourselves. The Cross of Christ opposes worldly thinking as God's intervention against our self-destructive desire to have our own way. Suffering is not evidence that God does not exist or care; instead, it proves that He does.

I think here of the wisdom written at the pen of that great man of the Church, the late Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen:

*“Feel a self-reproachful complicity  
In every crime on page one.  
Feel every man's sin as your own  
As a mother feels her daughter's pain.  
Take another's sickness unto your own  
As “He bore our infirmities.”*

*Against a wall with arms outstretched  
A wife in sobbing tears does fling herself  
At the husband's tale of another woman  
And he at the sight of it did say:  
“At that moment I saw Christ hanging on the Cross.”  
The lesser cross revealed the greater Cross,  
In which love is wounded by our sins.*

*Only the wounded know how to bind up wounds:  
The converted sinner has more mercy than the sinless Pharisee;  
True helpers are those who have been bombed out.  
Hence, He, in the words of the Scripture,  
“Has compassion on our infirmities.”*

*You are not alone! You are on a team!  
Hurt, they carry you to the sidelines.  
“Why should this happen to me? you ask --  
Forgetful that you helped the team to win.  
No suffering is wasted!  
As clouds carry rain over mountains,  
so your patience with cancer,  
Your resignation to withered limbs,  
Rebounds to some soul in Ceylon  
And helps a missionary in Seoul.*

*The greatest tragedy is not what people suffer  
But that they have no one whom they love  
To whom they can offer their cross.  
This is wasted pain --  
The pain of the Cross not the Crucifix;  
The guillotine, not the oneness with Christ.*

The seasons of the Church year—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time—serve as a rehearsal for our lives, preparing us to be with God forever. They remind us that God has awakened us through birth and awareness to His presence, power, and relationship with us, which are to be a permanent reality—beginning NOW! (Fr. Charles)



## SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tue Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	
7:00pm	+Margaret Patfield Requested by Mary Jo Walter
Wed Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	NEW YEARS EVE
4:30pm	
Thurs Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.
10:00am	
Fri Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	HOLY HOUR
7:30am	+Josefina & Pacifico Magale
8:30am	Requested by Emma Aspiras
Sat Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	+Aila Kellert Requested by the Godin & White Families
8:30am	
4:30pm	+Jolanta Okon Requested by Janusz Okon
Sun Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	For the People
9:00am	For the Family of Sandy Mattacott
11:00am	Requested by Sandy Mattacott

### Please Pray for the Sick



Mary Little, Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford,  
Mary Elliot

### Please Pray for the Recently Deceased



Fr. Frank Kelly

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the People of St. Mary's.



Dec 28<sup>th</sup> to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

Regular Collection Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 2025

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\$35,325.90



### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory Envelopes that need to be picked up, will be kept in the parish office until the New Year. If you would like to start using envelopes please give me a call at the parish office and I will get a box ready for you.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## THE FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

(New Years is a Holy Day of Obligation in Canada)

New Year's Eve: Wednesday December 31

4:30pm

New Year's Day: Thursday January 1

10:00am

**The Office will reopen on Friday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**A Happy New Year to You All**

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 28, 2025**

**ShareLife will match your gift!**

**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.

The vulnerable members of our parish community are facing leaving loneliness, hunger, and uncertainty this season. Your year-end gift to ShareLife enables those in need to receive support through 40+ ShareLife-funded agencies. Because of you, hope can live beyond Christmas and into the New Year.

**There's still time** to double your impact. If you donate online by December 31, you will receive a **2025 tax receipt**.

Please support the work of ShareLife agencies through [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate) or by giving at our parish using a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for living the Gospel!

### THANK YOU ADVERTISERS

Please look at the advertising on the back of this bulletin cover. The businesses you see there are helping to support this publication. We wish to express OUR THANKS to these sponsors and ask you to patronize their business. You might mention to them that you have seen their ad in our bulletin.

We would also like to thank the very generous parishioner who supplies our weekly flowers.

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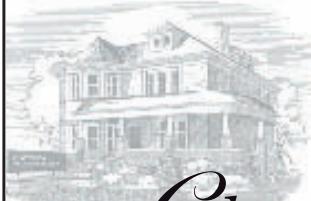
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