

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street  
Collingwood, ON L9Y 3L6  
Tel: 705-445-1790  
Fax: 705-445-9659  
Email: [stmarysco@archtoronto.org](mailto:stmarysco@archtoronto.org)  
Web: [stmarysco.archtoronto.org](http://stmarysco.archtoronto.org)

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

## 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

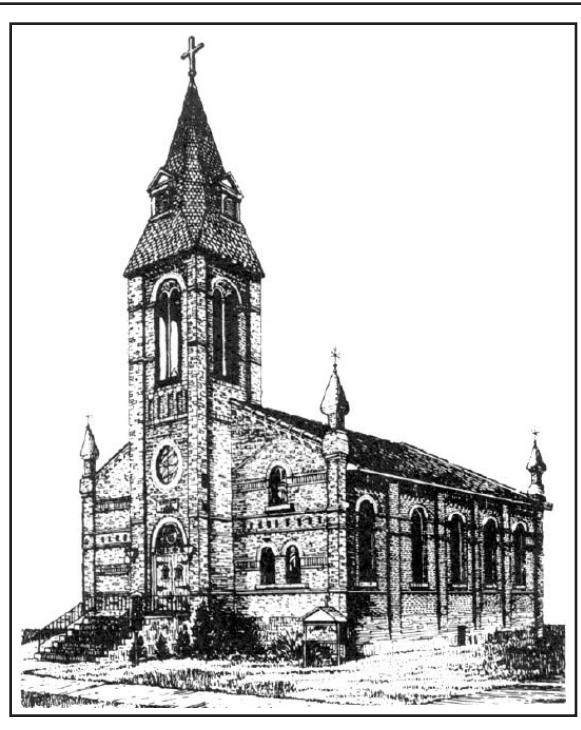
## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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.



**Every Friday:  
HOLY HOUR**

7:30 a.m.  
Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament

**The Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul  
President:**

Michael Quinn  
Tel: 705-444-0999  
[ssvpcollingwood.ca](http://ssvpcollingwood.ca)

**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@collcwla.ca](mailto:info@collcwla.ca)  
647-241-4699

**The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree**  
Grand Knight: Richard Mittermeier  
email: [gk5793@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk5793@ontariokofc.ca)  
[Collingwoodknightsofcolumbus.org](http://Collingwoodknightsofcolumbus.org)

**The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree**  
Faithful Navigator: Domenic Sanfilippo  
705-445 7615

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### LONGING FOR HOME

I have recently written about the longing for heaven that should permeate the heart, mind, and soul of the Christian, with a full and healthy spiritual sense that this world, as God created it, is good and that He declared it so repeatedly in the creation texts of the Book of Genesis; “And God saw that it was good.” Is the world God created still good? Yes, in that the created world is good, but fallen and in need of redemption, even though we know the Redeemer, Christ, Our Lord, has come. All that God has created was fashioned and exists by Him, belongs to Him, and therefore is good. “...for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.” If we say that our lives don’t belong to us but to God, then even while we are fallen sinners, we are still considered the ‘good’ that He has made, worthy of His forgiveness, reconciliation, and redemption through His own divine will.

Yet, while this created world is good and the place where we work out our redemption, it is still not our true home. We know this and experience this as we discover that no thing nor person can make us happy or satisfy us because there is a God-shaped hole in us that can only be filled with God. All things are loved secondarily to the way we should love God, for we are instructed by Christ to “...strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” In fact, we love all others, even our enemies, as a rehearsal and our desire, so to speak, of our desire to love God. Jesus told us that what we do to others, we do to Him; “just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matt. 25:40)

We are created with free will, which means the human heart has two directions—one that leans toward heaven with hope and another that tends to cling to the earth. The latter is always driven by fear. We know we won’t live forever on earth, but without faith, we still wish to stay here, even though it’s impossible. That is why the Christian views this life as a pilgrimage toward eternal life, our true home. “Jesus answered, Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (Jn. 14:23) Jesus is our ‘home’ away from our true home of heaven.

And since our home is an eternal one, longing for heaven is love, not escape from this world. Desiring heaven is not a rejection of the world God has created and placed us in, but deepens, not diminishes, our faithfulness to Him here, recognizing that the world is not ultimate for us; heaven is, and God is. Our place in time in the world is entrusted to us by God, and therefore, we won’t be careless about it, but careful with it. As *The Pilgrim Song* says, “Man is lonely by birth, man is only a pilgrim on earth, born to be king, time is but a temporary thing, only on loan while on earth.” This trace of self-perceived loneliness recognizes our lack of completeness in this world, even though it is as beautiful and good as it may be. This earthly life journey is not owned by us but entrusted to us by God, who is our Home. Again, our longing is not escapism from the world, but love for heaven with Jesus forever.

We’ve heard the phrase “heaven can wait” in songs or in attitudes that tend to see time on earth as somehow more desirable, especially when a lack of longing for Christ in the human heart is obvious. However, it can also act as a mask hiding false assumptions. As I mentioned in my Christmas homily, Christ entered the world through the mystery of the Incarnation – the Word became flesh and dwelled among us – to die. That was the reason He came and through it, He saved us through His death on the Cross. Yet, human death can be viewed as an interruption to our plans. Of course, we cannot yet truly know what heaven is like or imagine what perfected life could be, so we might be tempted to think that the good we perceive in the world is better because we have experienced it. Our relationship with Christ, lived out and faithful to Him in this life and in this world, becomes the source of our holy longing for Him, where we can actually say, “I can’t wait...”. If we are attached to this life only, then fear will lead us to cling to it, and fear never comes from God.

While it is true and often spoken that this life is a calling from God to a lived relationship with Him, heaven is the fulfillment of our belonging to God here. When we long for God and the heaven He promises, we come to recognize that we belong to Him, now and forever. Because death is a door for the believer, and Christ says in John 10:9, “I am the Door,” we pass through that door of death and into the full, beautiful, unimaginable presence of Jesus, beholding for the first time what we saw “dimly, as through a dark glass” in this life through the eyes of faith.

Living on the earth, as we do and really all we’ve known, we come to know in faith where and to Whom we are going. This is why more secularly attuned people may view the faith of Christian believers as unrealistic and imagined. But how can I know heaven now that I know Christ? While heaven is the destination and end toward which my life is lived, a ‘place’ is not my home but Christ Himself. To know Jesus is to taste some sense of heaven now. The Church teaches that the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ received, is “the foretaste and promise of heaven. We are partaking and participating even now in heavenly things, so much so that if we should receive them unworthily, it constitutes grave sin on our part. Why? Because they are real!

While the idea I write about has been on my mind, it largely stems from observing two extremes: those who cling to the world and wish to postpone thoughts of death, and those who seek to escape life’s sadness in hopes of heaven. But our true longing is for a relationship, not reward. If we long for connection but do not have a relationship with Jesus now, then we are, in a sense, seeking something spiritual but as an escape rather than the Person and love of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in this God-given life on earth, we remain faithful here but are not yet finished here because we belong to the Lord and eagerly await our citizenship in heaven. Heaven is a place of presence—the Presence of the living God, Jesus Christ, whom we have longed to be with forever. So, we are patient with life and yearn for closeness with Jesus, now and always, lovers on the way to the Beloved. (Fr. Charles)



## SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tue Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	
7:00pm	+Souls in Purgatory Requested by Clare & Gene Bisogno
Wed Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	
8:30am	Intentions of Philip Cardeiro Requested by Fernanda Cardeiro
Thurs Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	
8:30am	+Dan Braniff Requested by Pat & Family
Fri Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	
7:30am	HOLY HOUR
8:30am	Intentions of Sonia Cardeiro Requested by Fernanda Cardeiro
Sat Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	
8:30am	Unannounced Mass
	+Mino Pozzoni Requested by Rebecca & Davide Perrone
4:30pm	+Norma Still Requested by Terry Still & Family
Sun Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	
9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+Joe Ferrere Requested by Rosa & Joe Crupi

### Please Pray for the Sick

Mary Little, Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford,  
Mary Elliot, Pat Chalmers



### Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Margaret "Joan" McInnes, Dan Braniff,  
Pauline Schnarre, Giuseppe Esposito,  
Irene Wilson, Monsignor Eduardo Resendes,  
Deacon Salvatore Badali, Dorothy Murphy, Ivy Priest.



The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the Intentions  
Of Fernanda Cardeiro & Family  
Jan 11<sup>th</sup> to Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026



Christmas Collection	\$11,796.95
Regular Collection Dec 28 <sup>th</sup> ,	
Inc PAG	\$7,278.05
New year's Collection	\$2,113.35
Regular Collection Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Inc PAG	\$6,544.65
ShareLife	\$37,770.50

### ARE YOUR REGISTERED WITH THE PARISH?

HAVE YOU MOVED?

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS

Please let the office know, as we want to make sure that your tax receipt gets to you.

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory Envelopes are available for pick up in the parish hall. If you have never used envelopes and would like to start, please give me a call at the office and I will get a box ready for you.

**St. Mary's School** is looking for Lunch Hour Supervisors. It is a paid position, if you are interested please call the school at 705 445 6132 and ask for Mrs. Baker for details.

### CATHOLIC MOM'S GROUP

Meetup Wednesday January 14<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 to 3:00pm  
Church Hall  
"Drawing Closer to God"  
Children welcome  
Bring some colouring pencils  
RSVP to Bernadette  
[stmaryscwoodmoms@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscwoodmoms@gmail.com)

### COFFEE SUNDAY

The CWL is hosting Coffee Sunday following the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to coffee / tea / cookies/refreshments and to meet fellow parishioners.

### PAG - PREAUTHORIZED GIVING

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) to assist you in your support of the work of the Parish through your regular parish offerings. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, the parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly to the parish account. There are various benefits of participating in pre-authorized giving, both for you and for your parish. Advantages for you:

- The convenience of having your offering automatically go to the parish
- Continue to support parish while you are away
- Reduction of cash on hand
- Reduction of paperwork. For more information on how to enroll please contact the parish office.

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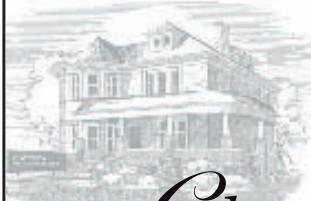
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