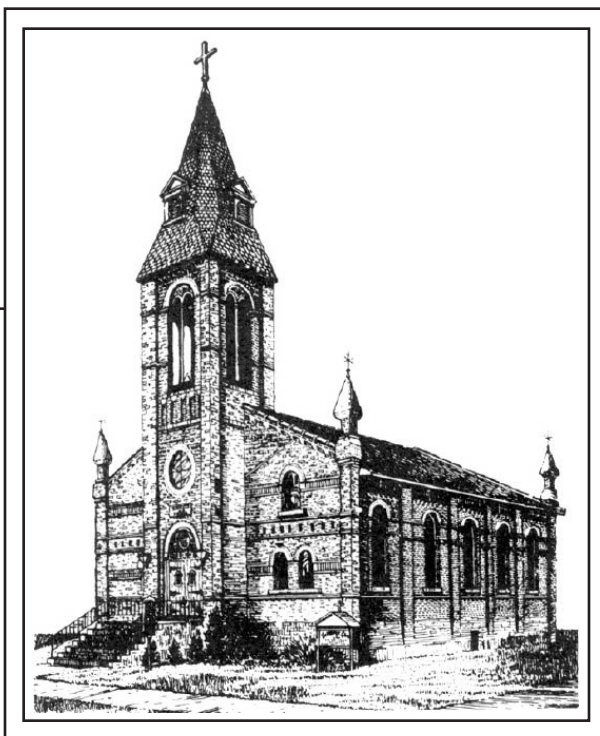


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
Collingwood, ON L9Y 3L6
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

LONGING FOR HOME (PART II) LIVING NOW WITH JOY

Following last week's bulletin article, "Longing for Home," where I wrote about our true home being with God in the fullness of heaven in eternity, I now turn my attention to this, our earthly home, which is temporary and exists in time. God, as we know from the Book of Genesis, declared "good" everything He created. This world was made with goodness built into it. Yet, man fell into sin through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, and paradise, as they knew it, suffered corruption and death. Even our bodies experience the effects of sin in that they are prone to the effects of age, disease, decay, and ultimately bodily death. Everyone dies.

This life, this span of years that is unimaginably brief for some and long for others, reminds us that life is too short to search for perfect happiness and too long to be miserable. Life, as God has given it to each of us, is good, and it is the place where we seek a relationship with Him now, finding in Him the good, the true, and the beautiful.

The apex of the goodness of the Lord in the Incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ, in His divine mission to save us through His death on the Cross. This death is forever and supremely memorialized in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when Jesus gives us nothing less than Himself, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. And we, sinners though we are, yet redeemed through the reconciling power of Christ, receive Him into our bodies in this heavenly bread that feeds our souls.

*"It is the wisest who grieve
at the loss of time."
(Dante Alighieri)*

Time is the one human resource that cannot be recovered, renewed, or replaced. It disciplines our desires. If someone looks back on their life and reflects on the wasted years, months, days, and even minutes—seen as squandered or foolishly spent—and wishes for the impossible ability to turn back the clock, they would then live their present with great remorse for the past, accompanied hopefully by a renewed desire to live more fully now. Trying to turn back time is like chasing a fleeting dream, an effort spent on an impossibility. For ages, people have said, "If I could do it all over again...", but of course, we can't. The linear flow of time reminds us to live fully in the present moment, not in the future—which remains a promise and a possibility—but here and now, where God exists with us and continually calls us to belong to Him. Perhaps, the greatest waste of a life is to spend it in daily dread of existence itself, seeking escape in anything that promises relief. A life without purpose often leads to this internal unrest. Yet, this life is given in minutes and hours to experience the good things of this world where we are working out our redemption in Christ.

The bedrock of the greatest of all sacred institutions: is marriage and family. Marriage was instituted from the beginning and from it, the union of a man and woman, produces the offspring of the earth—be fruitful and multiply, God said, and He never rescinded

the order, no matter what the overpopulation control people say. The blessing of marriage—with its many challenges within and without—is the family we are privileged to be born into. While not all families are ideal or holy, they form the foundation of society, built on parents loving each other, and through this grace, they beget and raise children to fill the world, souls meant to know God. Marriage, between a man and a woman, is the means by which God has designed the foundation of a healthy society. Naturally, our times are more complex, with numerous stresses involved in raising a family amid rising costs, economic instability, the threat of unemployment, as well as other challenges like sickness and sin itself. Yet, Christ chose to be born into a human family with parents who loved Him, even losing Him for three days. If He humbly became one of us, sharing fully in our human experience with its joys and hardships, then His life exemplifies the significance of these relationships and our brief sojourn on earth. The cycle of generations is receiving and giving; receiving everything we have, are and are called to be from our good and loving God and giving life to the world through our self-giving love, for "the only things you get to keep are the things you give away".

The late, great Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said, "The tragedy of life is not what we suffer. The tragedy of life is what we miss." Amen. The greatest loss in life is missing the most profound and meaningful aspects of the life God has given us in the goodness of the creatures He has made and the joys to be experienced and known, yes, here on planet earth. Think of the great saints of the Church who lived life fully, albeit sometimes in a few short years, giving of themselves to God and others.

The essentials in our lives with God while on earth are purpose and love. Having a purpose oriented toward a relationship with God shapes our horizon and our perspective as we live with one another. Even the loner needs others, and love, and all of us need to love ourselves toward the good. We aren't meant to live this life alone, nor love God alone as if He weren't in every soul we see. We know ourselves and ought to see ourselves as someone called and gifted by the Lord, sinners that we are, forgiven, as we can be, and loved first by God. Like the lyrics in the song, *The Beggar*, by Benjamin James, we must love God, others and ourselves in order to know joy, for as Leon Bloy said, "Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God."

Oh, be kind to the beggar that's inside of you
And the fiend that you are hiding, too
Oh, be kind
Feed the poor and lonesome man in your own soul
Love him 'til he's been made whole
Feed the poor
Be at peace with the enemy in your own home
Neither you nor he can throw a stone
So be at peace
Oh, be good to the criminal you've locked away
That sinful man you learned to hate
But, oh, be good
When I'm broken to pieces
You make me whole
And through every season
You're mending my soul

(Fr. Charles)

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tue Jan 20 th 7:00pm	Unannounced Mass
Wed Jan 21 st 8:30am	Intentions of Mark Cardeiro Requested by Fernanda Cardeiro
	Unannounced Mass
Thurs Jan 22 nd 8:30am	Unannounced Mass
Fri Jan 23 rd 7:30am 8:30am	HOLY HOUR Intentions of Luis Cardeiro Requested by Fernanda Cardeiro
	Unannounced Mass
Sat Jan 24 th 8:30am	+Dan Braniff Requested by Pat & Family
4:30pm	+Pat Chalmers Requested by the SSVDP
Sun Jan 25 th 9:00am	+Rusajczyk Sisters Requested by Jamroz Family
11:00am	For the People

Please Pray for the Sick

Mary Little, Alex Poirier, Hudson Ford,
Mary Elliot, Janine Wright



Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Pat Chalmers



The Sanctuary Lamp Burns
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Families
Jan 18th to Jan 24th, 2026



Regular Collection Jan 11 th	
Inc PAG	\$7,292.00
ShareLife	\$42,770.50



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.

**ARE YOU 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.

COFFEE SUNDAY

The CWL is hosting Coffee Sunday following the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday January 25th in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to coffee / tea / cookies/refreshments and to meet fellow parishioners. "The CWL will be gathering their spiritual bouquet for this years Ordinandi over the next few weeks. This is an offering of prayers, masses, and other devotions you will say over the next year for the men to be ordained to the priesthood this year. Stop by our display in the parish hall for further information."

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

WHY A PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING PLAN?

PAG allows St. Mary's parishioners to make their regular Sunday offering and if they wish their ShareLife offering using the "Direct Debit" system. PAG is an option, not a requirement! When you participate in the pre-authorized giving, your offering is withdrawn from your account one a month on or about the 20th day of each month.

BENEFITS FOR YOU AND FOR ST. MARY'S

PAG is convenient. Your offering is deducted automatically. There is no need to search for your chequebook or stop by a bank machine on the way to Mass. PAG allows you to support St. Mary's when you are away – a benefit for the church since expense continue all year long. Most importantly, you are in control; you can increase or decrease the amount or withdraw fro the PAG plan simply by dropping a signed note in the collection basket or the parish office.

HOW DO I ENROLL IN PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Decide the amount of your monthly offertory contribution, fill out the PAG authorization form, we have forms at each entrance to the church and in the parish office. Include a blank cheque marked "VOID" and place both in a sealed envelope. You can place the envelope into the collection basked or drop it into the parish office.

WILL I STILL USE ENVELOPES

If you still wish to use envelopes you can, there is a box on the front of the envelope that you can check it says "PAG Donation". You can also use the envelopes for any of the special collections not covered by your PAG.

PAG only covers regular offertory and ShareLife.

Please call the office if you are interested in signing up for our PAG program.

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