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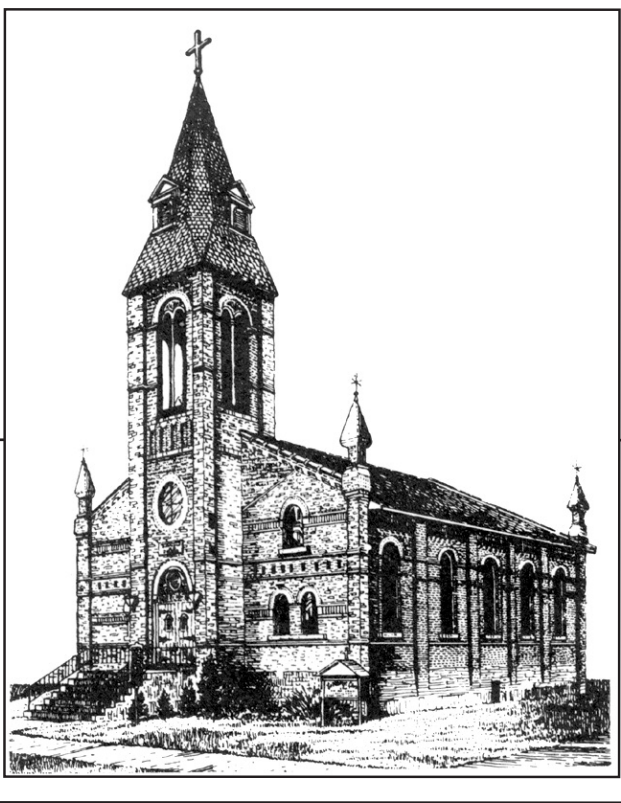
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Fax: 705-445-9659
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Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org

Every Friday:
HOLY HOUR
7:30 a.m.
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Charles Forget, Pastor
Jayne Williams,
Office Administrator
Emilie Spence, Sacramental
Co-Ordinator/Youth Minister
SMYMCollingwood@gmail.com

The Society of
St. Vincent de Paul
President:
Adrian O'Connor
Tel: 705-444-0999
https://ssvpcollingwood.ca

SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK, SHUT-INS: Holy Communion is brought regularly to sick and shut-ins. Please notify the rectory.

WEEKDAY MASSES
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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.

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

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 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.

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.

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

BULLETIN NOTICES must be received at the parish office by Wednesday at noon. Announcements will appear for no more than two weeks, and should contain only pertinent information. Please be brief.

BAPTISMS: Please call the Parish Office.

Catholic Women's League
President: Jean Stewart
(705) 445-2151

The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree
Grand Knight: Angelo Vivona
(705) 446 5147
collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org

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WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL



Whenever we experience the forces of nature personally, and not just according to someone else's account of it, we realize the power that is beyond us and beyond our control. As I am writing this bulletin article, it is Thursday, and the noisy, gusty winds reveal its awesome power. Pieces of the steeples slate roof have fallen to the ground, worked constantly by the persistent winds of rapidly moving air. At this moment, I am

humbled by this power of nature and yet know that, when it's all over, it will seem like it was nothing in my mind, a windy day come and gone. I think we might sometimes treat God and God's power in much the same way. God comes to us, not in the tumult of high winds or crashing thunder or even in the forces of nature but in ear-splitting silence, the still, small voice within. While the forces of nature are truly powerful, they are as nothing compared to the power of God.

He hurls down hail like crumbs —
 who can stand before his cold?
 He sends out his word, and melts them;
 he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
 (Psalm 147:17-18)

I am reminded of the passages from the Old Testament First Book of Kings when the prophet Elijah had fled into the desert following the threat of Jezebel to kill him. In the wilderness, Elijah prays to God that he might just fall asleep and die there. But God through an Angel awakens the prophet and provides food and sustenance for him. He sleeps once more but is awakened a second time that he might take the God-given nourishment he needs. Strengthened by the food of God, Elijah begins to journey forty days and night until he comes to the mount of Horeb and goes into a cave to spend the night... more sleep. It is in the morning that God awakens him with the question, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Twice God asks him and twice the prophet answers that he is afraid because they have killed the prophets, torn down the Lord's altars and have rejected God's covenant. But Elijah is not where the Lord wants him to be and it's as if Elijah has to put his foot down again for every time he has put it down in disobedience. But even before God sends him back out by the way that he came to anoint those God desired to serve as his prophets, he instructed Elijah to...

"Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."
 Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind;
 and after the wind an earthquake,
 but the LORD was not in the earthquake;
 and after the earthquake a fire,
 but the LORD was not in the fire;
 and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.
 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave."

In the Keil Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament, it says: "It was in the midst of such terrible phenomena that the Lord had once come down upon Sinai, to inspire the people who were assembled at the foot of the mountain with a salutary dread of His terrible majesty, of the fiery zeal of His wrath and love, which consumes whatever

opposes it (see at Exodus 19:16.). But now the Lord was not in these terrible phenomena; to signify to the prophet that He did not work in His earthly kingdom with the destroying zeal of wrath, or with the pitiless severity of judgment. It was in a soft, gentle rustling that He revealed Himself to him."

Elijah experienced the power of the forces of nature and while God had set all of them in place, God wasn't in them. Where was God to be found? In silence. God is in control of all things and has placed all things in our hands. We are the recipients of the great and creating hand of God, and while it is all around us, we know that we are not in control of it. Just as the beauty of creation and a baby's face can bring to mind the handiwork of God, so too do the forces of all that God has created remind us that we are in his hands as our protection and shield.

We can easily sense the power and beauty of God in attending a concert featuring Handel's Messiah or we can hear a classical piece that moves the heart and plucks at the strings of that same organ of the body. I think of the moving piece written by Henryk Gorecki, Symphony of Sorrowful Songs, in three movements. It is one of the most pleading pieces of music I have ever heard. I met someone who told me that when he heard it on the radio as he was driving on the highway, he felt compelled to pull off the road and just sit there in silence to listen to it. And while the song sings a lament of sorrow, particularly in the composer's mind as he was exposed to the atrocities committed and the death of so many Jews under the Nazi's, it also bears such a stark beauty that touches our senses and brings us to think of the hope always that is ours in God.



It is in the still, small voice within that God speaks to us, not in the tumult of earthquakes, fire and wind. It is in those moments when we realize we are alone but not, at the same time, that we may experience the clear voice of God

speaking to our inmost being, addressing our sense of seeking and questioning. Yet, even beyond this, the most incredible sense of the presence of God in silence is found when we are thinking nothing but simply just being. Showing up in prayer to the Lord and meeting that overwhelming silence with our own. It takes considerable practice and time to shake the dust of the world from our feet in prayer. Because we are not in control of much in this world, we are not powerless but are powerful in the hands and care of the God of Jesus Christ who loves us. To say, "Thy will be done", is to surrender our all to him in trust. (Fr. Charles)

THE VOICE

There is a voice inside of you
 That whispers all day long,
 "I feel that this is right for me,
 I know that this is wrong."
 No teacher, preacher, parent, friend
 Alternatively, wise man can decide
 What's right for you – just listen to
 The voice that speaks inside.

(Author Unknown)



Tuesday December 21st

8:30am Intentions of Ginena Sherwin on her 101st Birthday
 Requested by Susan & Fred Holmes

Wednesday December 22nd

7:00pm St. Mary's Parishioners

Thursday December 23rd

8:30am +Greg Cudney
 Requested by the Cudney Family

Friday December 24th

Christmas Eve

Saturday December 25th

Christmas Day

Sunday December 26th

9:00am +Deceased Members of the Thompson & Widdowson Families
 Requested by Mary Thompson & Family

11:00am

For the Families of Sandy & Al Mattacott
 Requested by Sandy & Al Mattacott

Please Pray for the Sick

Audrey Stover, Chelsea Cando, Joe Schillaci, Dorothy Dynes, Larry Voisin, Lexie Bruce, Margot Brandreth, Ken Buchan

Pray for those who have died recently...

Joan Cowling



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns
 In Memory of the Thompson & Widdowson Families
 from December 19–26, 2021

LAST WEEK'S PARISH OFFERTORY

Total: \$6,841.00 (including PAG)

Our weekly contributions through our offertory gifts are our gifts to God Himself, through the church, where we worship the Lord and receive Him in Word, Sacrament and in one another. Since we cannot outdo God in generosity, let us at least make the attempt. It is our humble way of expressing and showing God our gratitude for His beneficence and His steadfast faithfulness to us in all things each day of our lives.

Fr. Charles

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
 (2 Corinthians 9:7)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: Friday Dec. 24

4:30pm
 6:30pm
 8:30pm

Christmas Day: Saturday Dec. 25

9:00am
 11:00am

Please note that we will not be taking reservation for any of the Christmas Masses. You are advised to come early in order to get a seat in the church or the parish hall. **Please do not send a family member to hold seats, this will not be permitted. We need to be fair to everyone due to the limited seating. Thank you for your understanding.**

The early Mass on Christmas Eve in every parish tends to be the busiest so consider attending the second or third Masses of Christmas Eve or attend on Christmas Day.

THE FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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

New Year's Eve: Friday December 31

4:30pm

New Year's Day: Saturday, January 1

11:00am only

CWL Clothing Drive

Many thanks to our parishioners. Your support was overwhelming. We were able to help My Friends House, Barbara Weider House. Because Collingwood does not have a men's shelter and program for homeless males, it became a challenge to direct our warm clothing to them. However, the staff of My Friends House informed us that they have been going into the parks & wooded areas to help families (yes families) and men directly. Therefore, they were able to take some clothing. These organizations suffer from lack of space, so they are limited in how much they would like to take. We also sent new women and children's clothing to the Salvation Army who are involved with needy families. The balance of donations went down to the Good Shepherd on Queen Street, our old friends for more than 12 years. They were delighted.

Again, thank you all and God Bless. Rest assured you have made many people warm and happier.

A happy and peaceful Christmas & New Year to all from the CWL.

Offertory Envelopes

New Offertory Envelopes are available at the back of the church and can also be picked up during the week at the parish office. They are in alphabetical order. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to do so, there are blank boxes available. If you do pick up a blank box, please don't forget to write your name and address on the front of the envelopes.

Alternatively, please consider giving through our PreAuthorized Giving on a monthly basis.