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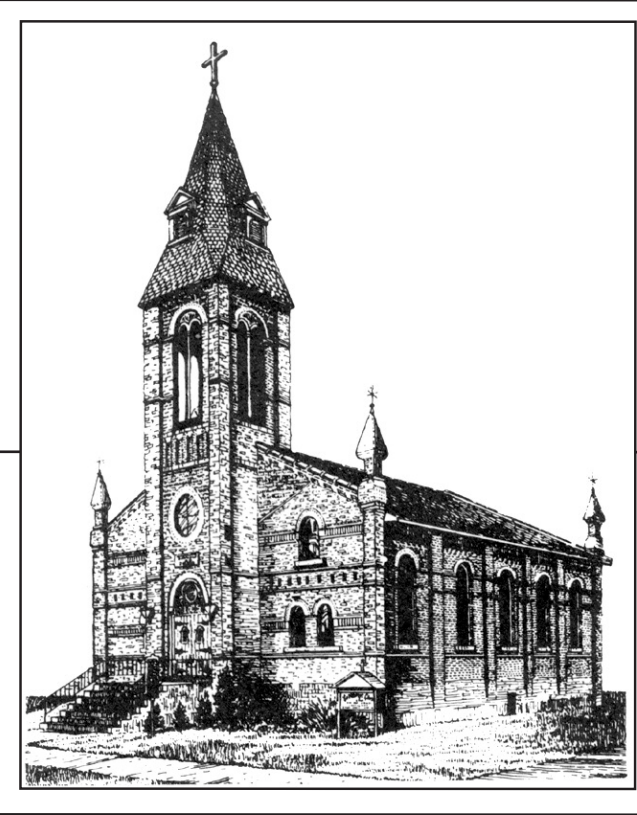
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Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org

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

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

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.

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

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

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 Wednesday 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: Jean Stewart
(705) 445-2151

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

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FORMED.ORG

About three months ago I announced the availability to all of our parishioners that we had purchased a one-year subscription to Formed.org, a Catholic multimedia platform offering hundreds of talks, videos, movies and documentaries to our parishioners for free. Formed makes it possible for Catholics to continue to grow in their faith beyond the Sunday Mass which sends us out to make Jesus known to others. Yet we all need to grow in our Catholic faith which is rich with the truth and beauty of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world. Beyond Advent and throughout the year our parishioners will find Formed.org as such a blessing to their lives. (Fr. Charles)

To get Formed, simply type into your web browser:

1. Formed.org. and click on "Sign Up".
2. This will take you to 3 options. "Choose, Sign Up As A Parishioner" – the second choice.
3. Under, "Create A New Account", type "St. Mary's Collingwood".
4. Type in your name and email address and click "Sign Up". You will be sent an email with the link to Formed.org.
5. Click on the link and enjoy Catholic movies, documentaries, talks, books, etc.

*You can also download the Formed application onto your phone and listen to audio talks as you drive or anywhere you go. For the Season of Advent, there is some great programming that you can view and enjoy. These are some of them.

Adventus: a Spiritual Pilgrimage (Video)

This is a 33-minute video which states that "In light of the separation we face as communities, this special documentary allows Catholics all around the world to unite and make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land to see the places associated with Christ's Birth."

The True Meaning of Christmas with Dr. Michael Barber (Videos) This is 2 short videos that reflect on 1. Coming Home for Christmas and, 2. Christmas Trees, with some good insights into the life and meaning of Christ's birth for us.

Advent: Rethinking the Season (Audio) with Dr. Tim Gray

This is a 50-minute audio presentation.

Advent Daily Reflections (emailed to you each day) Dr. Tim Gray

How it Works:

1. Sign up for Daily Reflections by entering your email address at daily.formed.org.
2. Begin receiving the reflections once a day straight to your email inbox.
3. Watch and enjoy each reflection on your mobile device or computer.

Brother Francis tells The Story of Christmas (For Children – Audio)

A heartwarming dramatization of the first Christmas and the birth of Jesus, the Saviour. (27-min.)

The True Meaning of Christmas by Ven. Archbishop Fulton Sheen

This 57-minute audio talk given by Fulton Sheen probes the distinctions about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, in the course of history and amongst the other religions of the world.



KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

When I was young and growing up no one ever had to say nor did I ever hear the slogan "Keep Christ in Christmas". While the majority of Christmas cards available in stores pertained directly to the Christmas message depicting the Nativity, angels, shepherds and wise men with holy figures' silhouettes against dark star-lit skies, there were also cards featuring Santa Claus and reindeers, and winter scenes as well. The word *Christmas* appeared everywhere and it was the only thing you heard people say. Today, however, one would be hard pressed to find 'religious' cards in retail stores, particularly high-end ones. Stores display huge decorated windows inviting shoppers to prepare for the 'holidays' by shopping in their stores for everyone on their list, and radio stations, like the CBC in Toronto, advertise constantly and early-on their "Sounds of the Season" annual fundraiser which wonderfully supports the cities local food banks.

While many fundraisers and causes that are supported by so many at this time of year are worthy of our giving and do great work, there is always, what I would call, that thin lie that is just beneath the surface and so abundantly apparent in the retail marketplace about Christmas and what it REALLY means. Christmas is like a dirty word that everyone knows but some would prefer not to say out loud. It's politically correct and politely incorrect all at the same time and it perpetuates the lie that the time in December which culminates somehow quite magically on December 25th has nothing to do with the birth of the long-awaited Messiah. Just as the pagan feasts were replaced by Christian feasts now the reverse seems to be happening. In an increasingly secular society the religious reality of Christian feasts – Easter, Christmas, Advent, Lent – are fast becoming seasons of no purpose but an excuse to 'celebrate'.

Now think about it. We all take holidays whenever we get the chance, particularly in our northern climate, summer holidays. Yet no one would use the word 'celebrate' in the context of summer holidays. You would never hear radio and TV ads that blared out 'Prepare to celebrate your summer holidays by booking your flight with us!' The holiday itself is the goal and focus. The word *celebrate* in our common language use usually pertains to a day, a specific day like a birthday, an anniversary, a family reunion, Thanksgiving or a gathering. Even our Christian occasions suggest a day of celebration such as a First Communion, Confirmation, Baptism, a wedding and even a funeral Mass. But again, our secular culture puts great emphasis on marrying the word *celebrate* with the word *season*, even though for three seasons out of four (spring, summer and fall) we don't apply the word. It is only the 'season' that surrounds the Christian mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ – God taking on a human body – that has become the playground of the thin lie. And then this untruth continues to use all of the Christian props of Christmas but sanitizes them of any religious reference so that the Christmas Tree becomes the Holiday Tree effectively removing any reference to Christ and His birth, holiday gift-giving replaces Christmas presents.

In fact, Christmas in the Christian calendar, is a season that begins just when the secular is finished with it. For eight days Catholics celebrate the Birth of the Saviour known as the Octave (8) of Christmas. Our Christmas trees should be up for the 8 days of Christmas as a tangible witness to what we believe about this season of Jesus' birth. Problem is, so often we anticipate Christmas way too early and are sick of the tree by the time the 25th rolls around and down it comes and out it goes the same day. We should also continue to say "Merry Christmas" to people for the eight days following Christmas Day as a living witness and evangelization tool in teaching others through a genuine salutation that Christmas is not over on December 25th, Christmas Day. I'm sure that the time before Christmas many years ago became known as the Christmas Season which then became the Holiday Season even though in reality only retired people and pre-school children would be on holiday during the whole season.

There is also a similar problem within Catholicism itself about the proper celebration of Christmas whereas many Catholics around the world will rightly celebrate Christmas Day by going to Mass, *most* Catholics won't. Perhaps the biggest culprits in dropping the meaning of Christmas, are Christians themselves.

The retail industry caters to where people are at I dare say that Christmas has been replaced as the Holiday Season because we Christians, and principally us Catholics as the largest group within Christianity, have dropped it and the secular world has picked it up, re-decorated it, changed the language and has presented it as something new and different which fits perfectly into months of retail buying ending on December 25th. Blessed Fulton J. Sheen said that what we Catholics drop the secular world picks up. When we dropped the Rosary the rock stars and porn stars picked it up rendering the power of it as symbol into meaninglessness. When we dropped Sunday as a holy day and a day of rest it was picked up by the world of sports so that most people have difficulty attending to anything religious because it interferes with sports and sporting events. Just as Smokey the Bear used to say, Only YOU can prevent forest fires, we could add, **Only YOU can keep Christ in Christmas.** It begins with us. (Father Charles)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



- Tuesday December 7th**
8:30am +Cristina, Kazmir & Sylvia
Requested by Maria Urbanski
- Wednesday December 8th**
7:00pm +Zygmunt Szewczyk
Requested By the Cudney Family
- Thursday December 9th**
8:30am For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
- Friday December 10th**
7:30am HOLY HOUR
8:30am For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
- Saturday December 11th**
3:00pm Confession
4:30pm +Nora McLaughlin
Requested by the Cudney Family
- Sunday December 12th**
9:00am +Deceased members of the Family
Requested by Rose Holzendorff
- 11:00am +Richard Babiarz
Requested by Jeannie Babiarz

PLEASE PRAY for the SICK

And all those afflicted in mind, Body and spirit, especially:
Audrey Stover, Chelsea Cando, Joe Schillaci, Dorothy Dynes, Larry Voisin, Lexie Bruce,

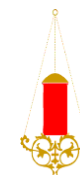


PLEASE PRAY for the RECENTLY DECEASED

Mary Angiers, Mrs. Anna Jajesniak
Mr. Sung Soon Paul Park



The Sanctuary Lamp burns
For the St. Mary's Parishioners



Offertory Nov 21st Inc PAG \$4,544.00
ShareLife Nov 21st \$46,558.00



Advent Day of Confessions
Tuesday December 14th
9:00am to 11:00am
6:00pm to 8:00pm



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30PM
6:30PM
8:30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00AM
11:00AM

NEW YEARS EVE 4:30PM
NEW YEARS DAY 11:00AM



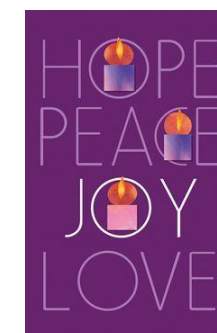
These Masses will be first come first served

CWL Clothing Drive
If you have responded already, many thanks and God Bless.



There is still time to help the homeless and needy. We have some changes to our initial requests. For the first time we are collecting for Barbara Weider House to help teenage/young adult clients. The request for bar soap would be for the homeless adults but there is a need for shampoo, liquid body wash, body lotion etc for teens. A good place to purchase is the Dollar Tree where there is a wide selection. Thank you. CWL

Offertory Envelopes will be available for pick up next weekend at the back of the church. Or you can pick them up at the office. They will be in alphabetical order. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, there will also be blank boxes available.



Second Sunday of Advent