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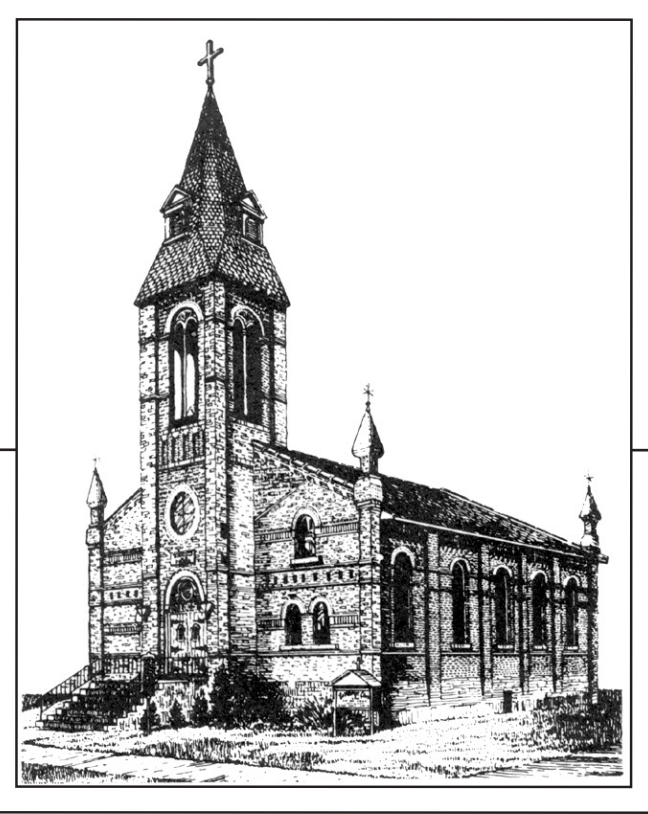
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ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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

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.

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.

<p>Catholic Women's League President: Jean Stewart (705) 445-2151</p>	<p>The Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree Grand Knight: Angelo Vivona (705) 446 5147 collingwoodknightsforcolumbus.org</p>	<p>The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Faithful Navigator: Domenic Sanfilippo (705) 445 7615</p>
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THE WORD "AMEN"

I remember asking children in the elementary grades of school, and some even older, what they thought the word "Amen" means. I heard that it meant the equivalent of saying, 'the end' at the conclusion of a prayer or that it told God you were finished after speaking to him. And, of course, it is none of these things though the word does appear at the end of prayers and is our only response at Communion when the priest says, "The Body of Christ". Children learn, as do all of us, that the word "Amen" is an assertion of faith and is tantamount to saying, "I believe" or "I agree".

During the celebration of the Mass the 'Amen' response is found from beginning to end and we usually end all our personal prayers with this affirmation of faith, with our "I believe".

The etymology of the word is interesting in that in the original Aramaic, the language Jesus himself spoke, and as it was hard to translate directly, the translation from other languages was used. Among the definitions it means to give assent to, to uphold, support or agree-with. So, given that this often-used word in the prayers of the Church appears at the end of every prayer, what is its importance and significance for each of us personally? It is our personal "yes" to the things of God – our prayer, our blessings and our acknowledgement that all that is proclaimed by the Church in her timeless teachings ultimately calls for our own individual assent of mind and heart.

In the Mass itself, following the Eucharistic Prayer and before we pray the *Our Father*, we respond to the whole Eucharistic Prayer with what is called the *Great Amen*. Now often enough it doesn't sound so great, especially during this pandemic when our singing voices have been muffled by a physical appendage over our mouths and the restriction from singing that has been added to our many modifications and removals from parish life. When the Amen is said, it sounds rather flat and quiet compared to a rousing sung Amen.

Most important in our use of the response, Amen, during



the Mass is when we say it just before we receive the Eucharist. We don't just say Thank You or Praise the Lord! or God is good ! but simply and audibly say Amen!

The Church teaches, (and this is so important), that when we say "Amen" before we receive the Sacred Host, we are

also saying "Amen" to everything the Church teaches and believes – everything. Why is this so? Because the Eucharist is the "Source and Summit" of our Catholic faith and lives.

I once heard a Catholic priest give a talk on the Eucharist where he said that a non-Catholic asked him why he couldn't receive Communion in the Catholic Church since he personally believed that it was Jesus? The priest responded by saying that the non-Catholic may in fact believe that the Eucharist is the Body of Christ but he is not in agreement with the body of Christ that is the Church.

We see this truth in 1 Corinthians 14:16:

"Otherwise, if you say a blessing with the spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say the "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since the outsider does not know what you are saying?"

St. Augustine said, in speaking about the Eucharist, "Say 'Amen' to what you are. We receive the Body of Christ in order to become the Body of Christ, the Church". And every couple that gets married in the Church adds the "Amen" to the vows they say in the name of the Most Blessed Trinity, which is to say that they give assent with their all to the promises they have just made to each other for life.

Once again, this truth for all Catholics should be a focus of our own moral compass particularly when we are tempted to be quick to reject certain teachings of the Church because we have been lured into believing the latest teachings of the world, and they are legion.

Saying 'yes' to the revelation and the mystery of God is an assent of faith that even while we may not or cannot fully understand what God has given to us and has been passed on to us by the Church, we can and must say 'yes' to it because God is God and we are not God.

Yet it is not only in the liturgy of the Church and the Mass where we find the meaning of "Amen", but in those things that come to all of us in one way or another and challenge us greatly in life. An illness, a sick child, the loss of a job or a relationship, the state of a rapidly changing and declining world – all these and many other things present a real challenge to us and our faith as well. In time and with God's grace we can say "yes" to His will, even and especially when we don't understand or like it.

The pivotal moment in a Christian's life is when we move from knowing God (or about God) in our head alone and come to know Him in our heart, mind, body and very soul. It is when we come to know that He is real, alive and with us and this truth makes us able to say "Amen" to His plan for our life. And, of course, this is easier said than done in that it requires trust in the One we say "Amen" to. And this is done by practice – the practice of faith. (Fr. Charles)

"The number of 'followers' you have does not make you better than anyone else. Hitler had millions, Jesus had Twelve."



Tuesday February 1st
8:30am +Claude Belcourt
Requested by the Cudney Family

Wednesday February 2nd
7:00pm Intentions of Fr. Chisholm
Requested by Ken Wright

Thursday February 3rd
8:30am Intentions

Friday February 4th
7:30am **Holy Hour**
8:30am +Jill Wright
Requested by Ken Wright

Saturday February 5th
3:30pm Confession
4:30pm +Richard Aschettino
Requested by Dolores & Brian Rae

Sunday February 6th
9:00am +Anne Nicholson
Requested by Carol & Michael Johns
11:00am +Emmanuel Joseph
Requested by Donna & Tim Lacey

Please Pray for the Sick

Audrey Stover, Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Lexie Bruce, Margot Brandreth, Ken Buchan, Christian Sawatzky, Lynda McKay

Pray for those who have died recently...



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns
In Memory of Rita Rooke
From Jan 30 to Feb 5 22

PARISH OFFERTORY
January 23rd \$3702.00 (inc PAG)

Please join us here at St. Mary's on Thursday February 3rd,
The Feast of St. Blaise for the Blessing of the Throats
after the 8:30am Mass

Saint Blaise, pray for us that we may not suffer from illnesses of the throat and pray that all who are suffering be healed by God's love.

SECOND COLLECTON FOR OUR BUILDING & MAINTENANCE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6TH

All Tax Receipts have been mailed out.

Confirmation

For anyone who has a child in Grade's 7 or 8, please contact Emilie our Sacramental Coordinator at the email address below or by calling the parish office. Ext 4.

Our previously scheduled In-person meetings are cancelled.
An **Online Zoom Parent Info Meeting** will take place **Thursday, February 3rd at 7:00pm** where we will provide all the information needed for registration.

A Zoom Link can be provided upon request by emailing sacramentsstmarys@gmail.com

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR February 26, 2022

As many of you know over the years, St. Mary's has been involved in the Coldest Night of the year walk for homeless youth, with our team St. Mary's Angels. In the 6 years we have been walking, we have raised \$22,185.00. Again, I am happy to be Captain of the team.

We need your help!

We are asking the members of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church to help us raise funds to support youth at risk of homelessness in our local area

Where does the money raised go?

The funds raised go to the Home Horizon, Barbara Weider House, a local not for profit charity, where the staff work incredibly hard to give these youth "Hope" for their future. The need is so great whether providing food, shelter, counselling, life skills or family reconciliation. For more information go to www.homehorizon.ca

Please support us as you can!

Simply **DONATE OR JOIN** our team St. Mary's Angels, in a virtual walk to show you care! Cnoy.org/Collingwood and look for our team name. If you require further information just give me a call at the parish office. Thank You.

So far, we have raised \$1400.00

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration at SMCDSB. Is your child turning 4 in 2022? If so, it's time to register for Kindergarten! There is something truly unique and special about learning that is rooted in faith and spiritual growth. It is a blessing that the youngest members of our parish have the opportunity to grow in spirit and faith within a Catholic school community. Catholic schools offer distinct faith-filled learning experiences, with a combined focus on academic, spiritual, social and emotional growth. Together, our Catholic schools and our parish community will guide children in their ongoing growth in faith. To help parents and students get ready for Kindergarten, the board has developed a package, including a parent booklet. We encourage parents who want to register their child for Kindergarten to visit the website at smcdsb.on.ca for welcome videos and registration information.