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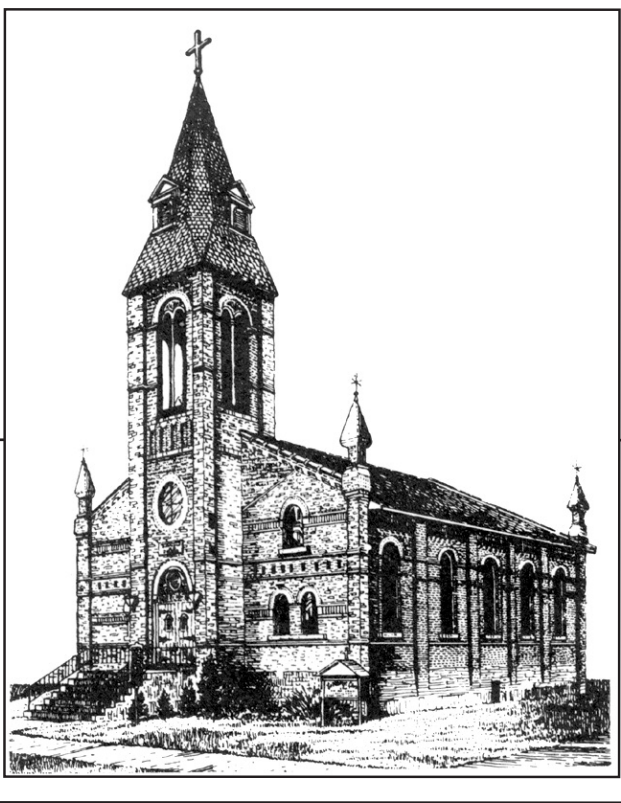
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Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org  
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org

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.

**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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**THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE**



In current times one can hardly write about or discuss anything that is not somewhat controversial. As I begin this reflection with a desire to quote the Second Vatican Council, even this Council of the Church, which took place

almost seventy years ago, is seen by some in the Church as controversial, as some see the Council as a necessary triumph and others as a failure. In *Gaudium Et Spes*, by Pope Paul VI in December of 1965 he addressed the work of the Council in the following famous statement:

“...the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel.”

**The “Signs of the Times”**

This term means to look at the times in which we are living in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teaching of His Church. Attentiveness to the signs of the times has been a necessary practice in the life of the Church in every age and is all the more important and essential for us living these two plus decades following the turn of the twenty-first century. As well, we can’t help but look at the teaching and truth of the scriptures in light of the Covid-19 pandemic that has hit the world and has changed our lives and the world economy drastically.

**Where are we today?**

We are a world that is living in the fallout of the sexual revolution of the sixties which has resulted in a world rife with divorce, people living together outside of marriage, a great decline in the birthrate and a sickening and staggering increase in the murder of innocent children in the womb. And it would seem that up until five minutes ago – to stress how ‘new’ this all is - we had not heard of same-sex marriage, transgenderism, the multiplication of genders and the affront to the family which has been the fruit of the sexual revolution. Contemporary entertainment on television has portrayed men as weak and silly, women as indifferent, and children as the wise ones. So many children today are raised without two parents and in the U.S. the statistics in the black community reveal a staggering 70% of children being raised without a father. Again, up until recently everyone was born as one of the two sexes named in the Book of Genesis; male and female. Now, somehow, gender has become a fluid thing, even something that is claimed to be either a choice or an orientation with even young children identifying as the opposite sex to their genital identification from birth. Governments themselves have stepped up to support these increasingly popular ideas, even threatening intervention toward parents who are not willing to cooperate in their child’s ‘choice’ or being coerced into full participation with it and even receiving parental encouragement and support.

While we live in what is called the ‘information age’, where we can so quickly and at any time and any place have access to what is going on all around the globe as well as statistical data on those things we might not know about (or even care to know), I find it interesting to consider the world-wide abortion rate and also find it an important awareness when we consider just how frequent abortion takes place. On *Worldometer.com*, a website of real-time statistics, you can see the frequency of births, deaths and really, as I imagine, a bit of what God sees of us humans populating and subduing the earth. For instance, the abortion rate becomes a staggering and shocking reality when we consider how often it occurs. I am writing this article on January 6 and according to *Worldometer*, so far this year the total abortions worldwide is currently at 655,000! That’s over half a million children murdered just six days into the New Year, meaning that 20 children are being murdered in the womb every 15 seconds! Yet, abortion is just a dirty word you can’t talk about. And, as I said recently over Christmas in one of my homilies – the soul of one single child in the womb is more important than all of the animals on the planet. And at the other end of the spectrum the now accepted and commonplace term of Euthanasia, the cooperation in the killing of those who choose to no longer live – or even the latest introduction of legislation that would allow others to request death for one who is unable to speak for themselves (Alzheimer’s, Dementia).

If we don’t look at all of these and so many other of the issues we are facing today in light of the signs of the times then we quickly become (as we have) a rudderless people, with no sense of direction or purpose or even the understanding of the full meaning of human life under God. And if that doesn’t spell out that God is giving us over to the very things we have chosen (in not choosing Him), then I don’t know what else to call it.

This is not to say that the world is not redeemable. It is. That’s why Jesus came to earth and among us. God wants us back! We, therefore, need to come back to Christ and allow Him to give us that which we need for our salvation – His forgiveness, mercy, love and presence. I can’t help but notice that there has been a notable absence of the Church universally calling all Catholics and all people in the world to repentance and a return to the Lord during this time of unprecedented pandemic. The most important thing is the care of our souls over an overemphasis right now of our bodies. As Billy Graham used to say to people in his preaching, “If you were to die tonight, where would you go?” That is admittedly a pretty straight-forward, in your face question, but it is one that is at the heart and center of Christ’s teaching which is one and the same with the teaching of the Church.

Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble; but take heart, I have overcome the world”. (John 16:33) *Fr. C*



**Tuesday January 11th**  
8:30am Unannounced Mas

**Wednesday January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm Unannounced Mass

**Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30am Intentions of Michelle  
Requested by Ken Wright

**Friday January 14<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30am **Holy Hour**  
8:30am Intentions of Jane Wright  
Requested by Ken Wright

**Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
3:30pm Confession  
4:30pm +Harry Spencer  
Requested by Ken Wright

**Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am Intentions of the Lopez Family  
Requested by Ken Wright

11:00am St. Mary’s Parishioners

**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...**

Salvacion Doritan Grayda, Father Paul J. Cusack, C.P.



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns  
For the Parishioners of St. Mary’s  
From Jan 9 to Jan 15

**PARISH OFFERTORY**

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**Total: \$2,840.00** (including PAG)

**Solemnity Mary Mother of God**  
**\$980.00**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**  
**DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Total: \$4,150.00** (including PAG)

**CHRISTMAS**  
**\$8192.00**

**HAVE YOU MOVED?**  
**DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS?**  
Please make sure we have your correct address if you have moved.

**Offertory Envelopes**

For those who have not yet picked up your offertory envelopes, they can be picked up from the parish office. Please just give me a call beforehand to let me know that you are stopping by.

**First Reconciliation/First Communion**

For anyone who has a child in Grade’s 2 or 3, 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, January 13th 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](mailto:sacramentsstmarys@gmail.com)

**Calling all Catholic Advisors**

Are you a lawyer, financial or insurance advisor? If yes, then we want to hear from you! The Archdiocese of Toronto has spent a number of years creating a network of advisors, who understand our faith and can assist us with our estate and financial affairs. Come and be a part of our network where you have the opportunity to integrate your spiritual and professional lives. For further information, contact the Development office at 416-934-3400 ext. 561/519 or email [development@archtoronto.org](mailto:development@archtoronto.org).

**Pre-Authorized 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 contributed to the parish.
- Knowing you continue to support the parish even when you are away
- Continual support of ministries and programs funded through the parish. January 7, 2021 Page 3 of 9 Advantages for the Parish:
- Regular, dependable contributions to the parish.
- Reduction of cash on hand.
- Reduction of paperwork. For information on how to enroll, please contact your parish office.

**Catholic School Board Trustee Job Opening**

The SMCDSB invites interested applicants to apply for the position of Catholic School Board trustee, representing Ward 2 (Orillia, Ramara, Severn & Oro-Medonte). For more information, please visit our website at [www.smcdsb.on.ca](http://www.smcdsb.on.ca) Or Kelly Hitchman-Powers, Co-ordinator of Trustee Services at [khitchmanpowers@smcdsb.on.ca](mailto:khitchmanpowers@smcdsb.on.ca) or 705 222 3559 X 265