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ST. MARY'S CHURCH

63 Elgin Street
Collingwood, ON L9Y 3L6

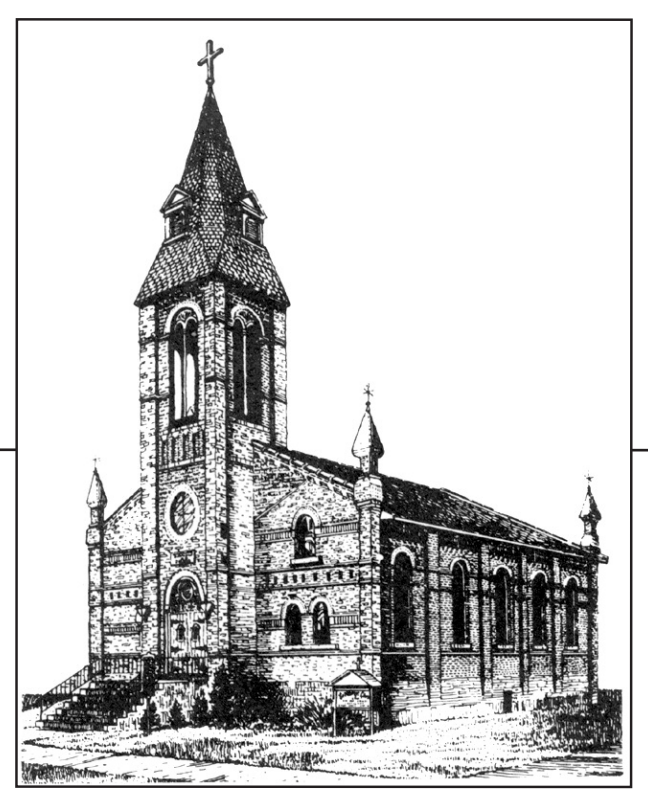
Tel: 705-445-1790
Fax: 705-445-9659
Email: stmarysco@archtoronto.org
Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org

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.

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

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree
Faithful Navigator: Domenic Sanfilippo
(705) 445 7615

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FR. EDWIN D'SOUZA



Fr. Edwin D'Souza, who served as pastor here at St. Mary's from 1989-1993 – his first parish assignment as pastor, died on Saturday, February 19 at the age of 85, having been a priest for 56 years. Fr. D'Souza was ordained a priest on December 22, 1966 and was Associate Pastor and pastor in

several parishes over the years. He retired in 2012, living in residence at Houses of Providence in Toronto. His funeral Mass, celebrated this weekend on Saturday, March 12 at 1:00 pm, was held at Blessed Trinity Parish in Willowdale. He was buried at St. Augustine Seminary in Scarborough at Queen of Clergy cemetery. Please pray for the rest of his soul and peace at the last.

Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy, pray for him.

EXPLAINING IT ALL AWAY?

I remember 12 years ago preaching about the devastation that took place in Haiti in the aftermath of the terrible earthquake that ravaged their people and their land. I spent the first half of my homily time addressing the horrific earthquake that had so devastated the poor people of Haiti and I looked at the mystery of why such things happen. Of course, there is no answer as to the “why” of things that happen that can't in any way satisfy our need to ask the question. If my car runs out of gas and I ask “why?”, it's meaningless. I know why it ran out of gas because I let it happen, or I didn't look at the gas gage, or I meant to fill it up yesterday and forgot all about it. There are answers to the “why's” of life that pertain to the things within our control and responsibility. A parent might ask a teenager “why” they didn't put gas in the car, but the question is really meaningless because the parent likely knows that the son or daughter has acted irresponsible or neglectful, and the “why” is really a form of reprimand and not inquiry.

To ask “why” life isn't fair, why terrible, tragic things happen to good and innocent people is more of a form of venting our frustration in the face of things that don't make sense. And a great deal of life's events don't make sense from the perspective of the way we would order things.

I think as children we ask the question about why someone we knew, loved and loved us, died. The whole idea of death and the reality that we won't live forever in these bodies we wear brings about a tough awareness that people die, which leads to the realization that we, too, will die. When a child asks why people have to die, they are really seeking an answer to one of life's greatest mysteries because they are trying to put the universe together, and this is one big piece of it all. The child wants to know why things are the way they are and to answer, “Just because...” doesn't cut it for an adult much less for a child.

Sadly, in a world of so much unbelief and disbelief where God is largely ignored, the question “why” usually gets aimed at God in the face of tragedy and loss. We don't ask why God doesn't just crush us or make us go up in a puff of smoke when we ignore Him or neglect Him altogether.

No, we tend to bring God out for special occasions like baptisms, first communions, weddings and the like and we haul Him out to account for Himself and His strange and awful ways when calamity comes and we don't understand why.

Strangely enough, we don't ask God why He continues to love us when we can be truly horrible people, or why He showers us with so many good things like the warmth of the sun, the simple singing of a bird or the miracle and wonder of a single flower or the complexity, beauty and wonder at looking at a baby. We can take these things for granted and only wonder at the things we don't understand. To ask the question “why” in one sense is a good and positive thing because it means that beyond our years of infancy and childhood, we are still trying to put the world together and God's place in it, and the fact of the matter is we will leave this world still with those questions. Yet that is such a wonderful thing when one considers just how beyond and unique is our God in comparison to all we see and know and understand.

In our seeking we should consider to ask why God is so good when we are not; why God shows us the greatest scenes, the most beautiful sounds and gives us minds that are capable of dreaming the impossible and entering into the mysterious. Is it not because we deem life to be good that we so desperately cling to it and are confounded when we see its loss? While we can never take life for granted and must value human life above all things, the very faith we profess assures us of a most perfect life that is to come, and in this context of living, even tragedy, grief and senseless loss contains hope because this is not all there is. When one considers that even an atheist, should their life be one long line of bliss, would be saddened by the fact that their life will come to a sudden and abrupt end at some future moment unknown to them, and after that moment - nothingness and nothing.

As a believer in the God of Jesus Christ, even while I don't and never will remotely understand life and God Himself, I have come to know that I can trust Jesus Christ with my very life through the living, palpable relationship I have with Him and He with me. I often consider how I would react if some terrible tragedy should happen to me or those I know and love, and how I would fare when my faith would be put to the test. I would hope that God would give me what I need at the time (and not a second sooner) just as he led Mary and Joseph one moment at a time with his protection, power, guidance and blessing.

I had an aunt, Mary, who had MS for many years and had been confined to a wheelchair for decades. For all that she had been through, endured and had to cope with, she was a woman of deep, lived and authentic faith – faith that believes and trusts even when and especially when she knows no answer to the question “why”. She lived, I know, with the assurance that while she wouldn't ever know why things have happened to her as they have, she knows the “Who” that most matters - God. And the beauty of it all is that she knows Him now like never before.... and so can we. (Fr. Charles)



- Tuesday March 15th**
- 7:30am **HOLY HOUR**
- 8:30am St. Mary's Parishioners
- Wednesday March 16th**
- 7:00pm **+Cathy Garrett**
- Requested by Christine Godin
- Thursday March 17th**
- 7:30am **HOLY HOUR**
- 8:30am Intentions of Michelle Spencer
- Requested by Ken Wright
- Friday March 18th**
- 6:30pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
- 7:00pm **+Joseph Szydziak**
- Requested by Deb & Brian O'Hearn
- Saturday March 19th**
- 3:00pm to 4:00pm **CONFESSION**
- 4:30pm **+Emilio Nella**
- Requested by the Family
- Sunday March 20th**
- 9:00am **+Fred Duggan**
- Requested by Elinore & Family
- 11:00am **+J. Richard Grimm**
- Requested by Yvonne Grimm

Please Pray for the Sick
 Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Lexie Bruce,
 Margot Brandreth, Christian Sawatzky, Lynda McKay,
 Andrew Witvoe, Fr. Jim Petrie
Pray for those who have died recently...



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns
 For the Intentions of
 Margot Brandreth
 From March 13 to March 19, 22

PARISH OFFERTORY
 March 6th \$4910.00(inc PAG)



Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief

Ukraine has been plunged into war after the Russian military invaded the country last week, resulting in widespread violence and a looming humanitarian crisis. In response to the request of parishioners, the Archdiocese of Toronto has launched a humanitarian relief effort to help the Ukrainian people at this time. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian civilians have already fled their homes and are trying to find shelter in neighbouring countries. The United Nations estimates that there could eventually be up to five million Ukrainian refugees, depending on how the war transpires. Pope Francis has called on the faithful to make Ash Wednesday (March 2, 2022) a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine. On that day – and the days that follow – a donation to help Ukrainians who are suffering due to this war would be a most appreciated gift. The Archdiocese of Toronto will channel donations to support the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT) and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). CNEWA is a papal agency with a long history of humanitarian relief; it is currently working in Eastern Europe, providing Ukrainians with food, shelter, medicine and transportation to safe locations. ORAT is Canada's largest private Sponsorship Agreement Holder, which helps bring hundreds of newcomers to our country each year; it will use donations to bring Ukrainian refugees to Canada as soon as possible. Your donation will help Ukrainians who are beset by violence in Eastern Europe and it will help some of them find a new home in Canada.

Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org
- By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to: Name of Parish – Ukrainian Relief – Humanitarian Relief



2nd Sunday of Lent March 13
Live the Gospel by supporting ShareLife

ShareLife Sunday is March 27th. Our parish goal for this year's campaign is \$45,000.00
 This year, we are encouraging you to make your donation online via the parish website or at sharelife.org.

Monthly Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) is a convenient way to spread your ShareLife contribution throughout the year. Simply fill out the form which you can download from our website, or pick up in church or from the parish office, include a void cheque, and then give it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket at any time.

Parishioners who have previously supported our parish campaign are being sent a letter from Cardinal Collins. Information about how to again support our campaign is also found in the included letter from His Eminence. Thank you for supporting ShareLife