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ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org

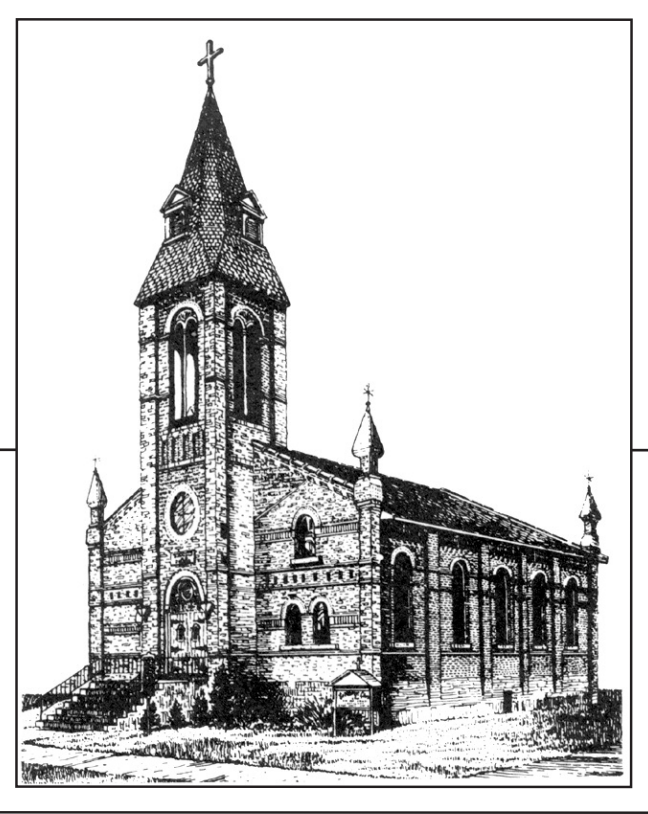
Every Friday:
HOLY HOUR
7:30 a.m.
Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament.

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.

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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WHY A CELEBRATION OF LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH

In this Easter season as we look to the repeated unfurling of the glorious mystery of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we recognize that He has changed death forever. I wonder, however, whether we have forgotten the great promise of life after human, bodily death for those who believe?

One of the difficulties among many these past two years of the pandemic is to see what the restrictions did to grieving loved ones when they would be either told that no funeral service or Mass in the church would be possible. For so many, the already difficult grief over the loss of a loved one was intensified by the fact that they couldn't fittingly say goodbye and that often a funeral wasn't possible at all. It was a challenge to one of the corporal works of mercy; that of burying the dead. My dear mother died after a 22-year battle against Dementia that took so much of her active mind though it never took away her faith. She died just weeks before the pandemic hit and we were blessed, in hindsight, to have celebrated a funeral with a full church, the St. Michael's choir school singing and our commendation of her soul to the God she so dearly loved. It was a great consolation and blessing.

In just a few short years, like so many of the trends of the past decade or so, we have seen a major shift in moving from traditional Catholic funerals with a Mass and the body of the deceased present to no Mass and no body replaced by a "celebration of life" at some later date. Those who are in favour of this celebration might often cite the fact that they find funerals depressing and caskets and urns and burial morbid and funereal. I suppose we've all had experiences of funerals that weren't very inspiring making us just want the whole ordeal to be over. I would hold that we are really changing our focus of who the funeral is really all about.

CATHOLIC FUNERALS ARE ALL ABOUT JESUS

Catholic funerals focus on Jesus Christ who is the deceased person's hope of mercy, forgiveness and eternal life as He is the Resurrection itself. While we name the person who has died in prayer and in the homily and will most certainly share our memories and stories about them outside of the funeral itself, the focus at a Catholic Funeral Mass is celebrating Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection in light of His promises to those who believe – that we too will rise from death to life. And yes, celebrate, because we have every reason to revel in the fact that Jesus has won the greatest of all victories over sin, darkness and death. That's pretty amazing that our God doesn't simply offer some semblance of His own rising but shares it fully with us. He died, we also will die. He rose from death, we too will rise from death. He went to heaven and we will follow Him there. We receive the full portion of what Jesus did and where He went. So, the focus rightly is on the life and teaching of Jesus and our longing to be with Him in heaven forever.

Perhaps the last statement above is where the rubber meets the road. Perhaps some people actually don't want to be with Jesus, now in this life and in the life that is to come. Perhaps they'd rather rely on their own understanding of Jesus and their own part with Him. Jesus may have a place in all things

but it's not an important place for them. Jesus merely gets a walk-on part in our play of life and death. He's an add-on to the death thing. But He's not! He singlehandedly destroyed death and made it possible for us to be able to taste the joys of heaven in the relationship we have with Him now.

I see the reality of a change of focus more and more as a priest, often called to preside over funeral home services instead of a funeral Mass in the church. I recall one funeral many years ago when, before I proclaimed the word of God and gave a homily, the grandson of a woman in her eighties was to give the eulogy. He began by saying, "I don't know if you believe in this God-stuff, but I don't. All I know is that my grandmother loved me, she spoiled me. She was a great cook and showed me great love in the things she did for me and I wish she were still here." And there I sat, dressed in a Roman collar looking like the village dummy, someone who obviously believes in this God-stuff. I also realized that this unfortunate individual was offering the hint that while he may have loved her, it was largely all about him and what his grandmother did for him and gave to him. I have no doubt that he loved her but that it was largely material.

WHAT WE DO AT A CATHOLIC FUNERAL MASS
that likely won't be considered at a Celebration of Life

Pray For the Deceased

As the Church, we have the privilege and gift to lift up those who have died before God. We, the living Church on earth, can intercede for the one who has died.

Ask God's Forgiveness for Their Sins

We ask God to forgive the sins of the person who has died, any sins they may have committed in the body. While our prayer is not an absolution, we are asking God on their behalf to do that which may have been left undone.

Pray For God's Mercy

God's mercy is not automatic. Throughout our lives and in the liturgical life we so often pray, Lord, have mercy. It is found in the Gloria, the Confiteor and in the Eucharistic Prayers. The priest's words following the Confiteor so beautifully sums up what we always are asking of God and most especially when someone we love dies:

*May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.*

Uplift Those Who Mourn

I can't tell you the number of times following a funeral I have heard comments from people saying how beautiful and uplifting it was. Sometimes they even find it strange that they would say this because we don't tend to think of funerals as being beautiful, like we would a wedding. Yet the funeral is the great sending, surrounding the deceased with our prayers and praying life with Jesus in heaven for them. It speaks to our own living and our own hope.

Commend The Soul To God

'Return to Sender' is the Church's prayerful cry when someone has died. The soul is not just sent anywhere but sent to the Lord of Life Himself, Jesus Christ. In prayer we place the one who has died in the loving and comforting hands of Jesus, not sending them to what we often say, to a 'better life', but to JESUS CHRIST, The Best!. (Fr. Charles)

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tuesday	May 3
8:30am	+Jane Wright Requested by Doreen Bull
Wednesday	May 4
7:00pm	+Norma & Don Carson Requested by Genevieve & Clark Carson
Thursday	May 5
8:30am	+Rosemarie Scattergood Requested by the Cudney Family
Friday	May 6
7:30am	HOLY HOUR
8:30am	+Jane Wright Requested by Ken Wright
Saturday	May 7
8:30am	+Mary Jane Montgomery Requested by Marcia Hickey
3:30 to 4:00pm	Confessions
4:30pm	+Marie Pilon Requested by Deb & Brian O'Hearn
Sunday	May 8
9:00am	Intentions of the Guerrero & Andaya Families
11:00am	For The People

Please Pray for the Sick
Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth,
Lynda McKay, Fr. Jim Petrie, Ken Buchan
Pray for those who have died recently...



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3rd Sunday of Easter
May 1, 2022



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Notre-Dame-De-La-Huronie

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Thursday May 5 @ 5:00pm
55, Findlay Drive, Collingwood
705 444 1764
Immersion students are welcome to apply
Register your child for September 2022
Visit: CscMonAvenir.ca



The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's Church Scholarship Award

This award is given annually to one Catholic female graduate who is actively involved in the St. Mary's Catholic Church community, and is continuing with post-secondary education. The application is due no later than May 27th 2022. For full details on this scholarship, please see bulletin board or contact Mary Thompson through the church office at 705 445 1790 Ext 2

CWL BAZAAR



We are happy to announce the Spring Bazaar will be held May 28/29, together with the ever popular 50/50 Draw. The Draw tickets will go on sale May 7/8 after Masses. Please see bulletin next week for further information re items we will be collecting. Thank you