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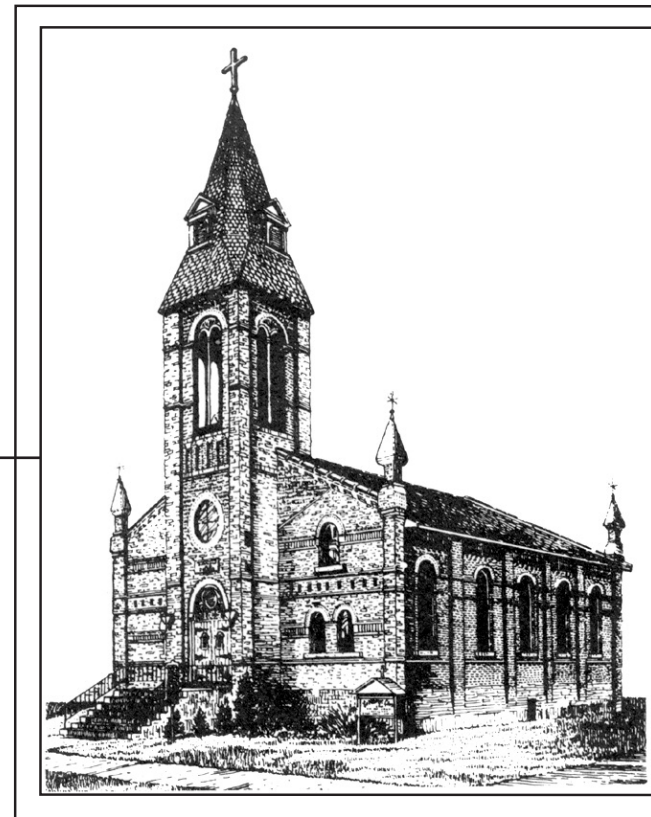
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Every Friday:
HOLY HOUR
7:30 a.m.
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Fr. Charles Forget, Pastor
Jayne Williams,
Office Administrator
Emilie Spence, Sacramental
Co-Ordinator/Youth Minister
SMYMCollingwood@gmail.com

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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November: Month of All Souls Praying For the Dead



The month of November has traditionally been a month dedicated to the living's remembrance of all those souls who have died in a spirit of trusting prayer to our Lord Jesus that they might be granted to see and live in heaven forever. In this context, what is heaven? Being with Jesus.

It should be clear from the outset that while this time of year reflects an increasing darkness with shorter days and longer periods of night and the horizon seems bleak with the bare trees, increasing cold and the coming of winter, the praying we are commended to do for the souls of those who have died is not in any way communication with those souls but prayer on those souls' behalf that they might soon see God.

Some erroneously believe that "when you're dead, you're dead" and there's no chance of changing who and what a person was in this life. This stance in and of itself would be our judgment on that soul – a perilous and unloving mindset indeed – and displays not only a gross lack of charity for the soul of another who lived, breathed and walked this earth as we do now, but also reflects a lack of trust in what God can do.

I think of the story told by Venerable Fulton J. Sheen of a woman who came to him and told him that her brother had died and that she was sure he was going to go to hell because he had done much to corrupt the minds of youth and at the end of his life had taken his life by jumping from a bridge and drowning in the water beneath. Sheen's response was, "Madam, it is the distance between the bridge and the water which makes you unable to judge."

We don't know what God knows. We don't know what God sees. Yet as humans, sometimes, we project onto God what is in our minds and hearts. There is the beautiful truth of the words from the Book of Samuel 1 Sam. 16:7:

"...for the Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart."

While many Christians don't share with us Catholics a belief in purgatory, there are many examples of it in the scriptures. To believe that God's own blessing, merciful and forgiving hands are bound by our greatly limited understanding of God is to believe that somehow, we know instead of the truth that God knows. It's important to remember the differences in heaven, purgatory and hell.

WHAT IS HELL? Souls in hell will never see God because that, in fact, is what hell is – the absence of God forever by our own choosing in this life. In hell, it is said, the doors are locked from the inside for the soul that rejected God have themselves turned the key. God has not sent a soul to eternal damnation but rather it has been chosen in an absolute refusal to accept God and God's love.

The *YouCat* (Youth Catechism) 161 and 162 says:

"Someone who consciously and with full consent dies in serious sin, without repenting, and refuses God's merciful, forgiving love forever, excludes himself from communion with God and the saints. We do not know whether anyone at the moment of death can look absolute Love in the face and still say No. But our freedom makes that decision possible. Jesus warns us again and again not to separate ourselves definitively from him by shutting our hearts against the need of his brothers and sisters: 'Depart from me, you cursed ... As you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.'

But if God is love, how can there be a hell?

God does not damn men. Man himself is the one who refuses God's merciful love and voluntarily deprives himself of (eternal) life by excluding himself from communion with God. God yearns for communion even with the worst sinner; he wants everyone to convert and be saved. Yet God created man to be free and respects his decisions. Even God cannot compel love. As a lover he is 'powerless' when someone chooses hell instead of heaven."

WHAT IS PURGATORY?

Again, the *Youcat* (154) is most helpful with this question:

"Purgatory, often imagined as a place, is actually a condition. Someone who dies in God's grace (and therefore at peace with God and men) but who still needs purification before he can see God face to face, is in purgatory.

When Peter had betrayed Jesus, the Lord turned around and looked at Peter: 'And Peter went out and wept bitterly'- a feeling like being in purgatory. **Just such a purgatory probably awaits most of us at the moment of death: the Lord looks at us full of love – and we experience burning shame and painful remorse over our wicked or merely unloving behavior. Only after this purifying pain will we be capable of meeting his loving gaze in untroubled heavenly joy.**"

PRAYING FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Again, some would argue that when you're dead, you're dead and, therefore, no prayer made to God is going to change whatever they had coming to them. This is partially true in that the deceased person of and by themselves can do nothing to change whatever state they put themselves in. When we pray for the souls who have died we are not praying for the souls in hell because they are beyond our help. However, we must remember that no one knows who is in hell, only God, and we cannot even attempt to presume to know what God knows. We also cannot with certainty state that someone is in heaven because only God knows the person at his or her heart level. When we pray for the souls in purgatory, we are praying for those nameless many who in some way need our prayerful, loving prayers on their behalf that they may one day see heaven, for purgatory is not eternal but is a temporary condition of the soul that awaits heaven and seeing God fully.

The *Youcat* states this of purgatory (160):

Can we help the departed who are in the condition of purgatory?

Yes, since all those who are baptized into Christ form one communion and are united with one another, the living can also help the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory.

When a man is dead, he can do nothing more for himself. The time of active probation is past. But we can do something for the faithful departed in purgatory. Our love extends into the afterlife. Through our fasting, prayers, and good works, but especially through the celebration of Holy Eucharist (the Mass), we can obtain grace for the departed."

The word itself, purgatory, does not appear in the bible, nor does it have to. The condition of purgatory existed as evidenced in sacred scripture before we put a name to it. The word itself means "a cleansing place" where souls with what unforgiven sins are 'purged' before they can go into the joy of heaven. Purgatory is a state of "not yet" in relationship with the fullness of God. Therefore, if it is clear to us that purgatory exists and that most souls who lived for God go there, and those souls can do nothing on their own to gain the fullness of heaven, why wouldn't we pray for the souls in purgatory?

And that is what this month of November as the month of praying for the souls in purgatory – all souls – offers us the reminder to do: to pray with great love for the dead and out of our great love for God intercede on their behalf. (Fr. Charles)

"Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord."

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Tuesday November 9TH All Souls

8:30am + Klaus & Martin Scholz

Requested by Ingeborg Scholz

Wednesday November 10TH

7:00pm +Deceased Members of the

Rosary Apostolate

Thursday November 11TH

8:30am +Margaret Ogles

Requested by Barb & Mary

Friday November 12TH

7:30am HOLY HOUR

8:30am UNANNOUNCED MASS

Saturday November 13TH

3:30pm Confession

4:30pm Intentions of Mary Thompson

Requested by The St. Mary's CWL

Sunday November 14TH

9:00am

+Filippa & Romualdo Belvedere & Edward Grzesik

Requested by the Belvedere Family

11:00am

+Martha Patricia Moran Bennett

Requested by Barbara & Paul Gavin

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



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, Gerald LaChapelle

PLEASE PRAY for the RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr. Kazys (Kazimieras) Kaknevicus

Fr. Paul A. Casullo



We remember All Souls Masses

If you would like to remember your "loved ones" in the Masses through the month of November please pick-up an offering envelope at either entrance to the church, fill it out and put it in the box provided.



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Did you have to scramble for a pen to write a cheque before coming to church today? Perhaps you had to check your wallet for cash when the collection started. You can now avoid these hassles by making your donation through a pre-authorized giving plan. Brochures are available at either entrance of the church and at the parish office, or you can download one off the website. To participate please complete the authorization form. Forms may be returned in the collection basket next week or mailed to the parish office. Pre-Authorized Giving conveniently allows you to support your parish, even when you are away, and creates a stable source of income your parish can rely on. Please give some thought to signing up for PAG or maybe even increasing your monthly offering if you are already on PAG. Blessings

ARE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE PARISH?

HAVE YOU MOVED?

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS?

WE NEED YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS FOR THE TAX RECEIPTS.

Sacramental Update:

We are already well on our way celebrating sacraments this year for our candidates who were registered in 2019. We will have registration open for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in January 2022 - for candidates who did not make it to this Fall's celebration, and for all those in grade 2, 3, 7, and 8 who feel prepared for their sacrament. We will let you know in the new year when registration will be open and how to sign up for the preparation course.

If you have any questions, DO NOT contact the school, please contact Emilie, our Youth & Sacramental Coordinator, at sacramentsstmarys@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can phone the parish office and speak to her directly. We will be in touch soon! God Bless.



Caring for those who always cared for us

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NOVEMBER 13/14



We Will Never Forget

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NOVEMBER 11TH

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Lest We Forget.