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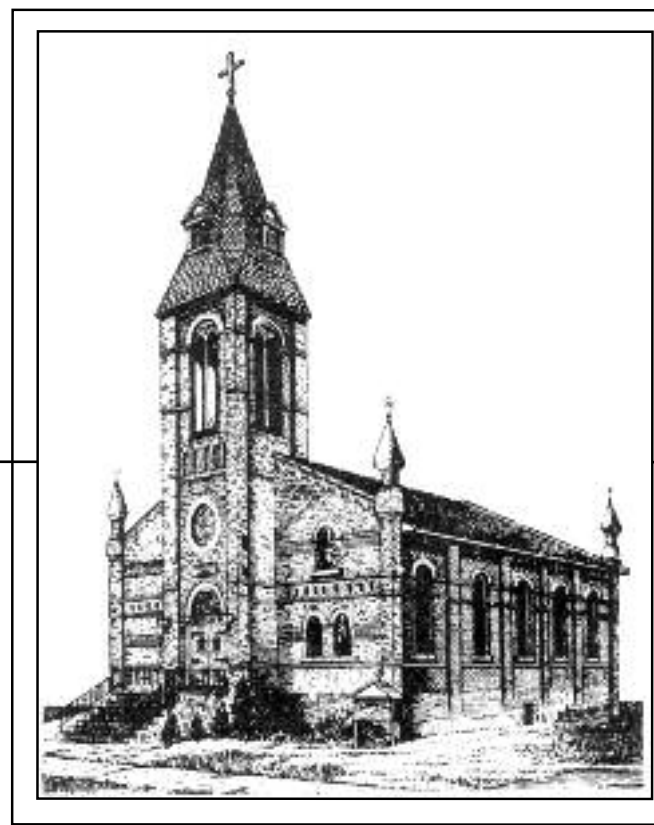
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Web: stmarysco.archtoronto.org

Fr. Charles Forget, Pastor
Jayne Williams,
Office Administrator
Emilie Spence, Sacramental
Co-Ordinator/Youth Minister
SMYMCollingwood@gmail.com

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

The Society of
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President:
Adrian O'Connor
Tel: 705-444-0999
https://ssvpcollingwood.ca

SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday Vigil: 5:15 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 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

A TROUBLED WORLD

Most of us would say about the times in which we find ourselves, that “we haven’t seen anything like this before”. It is a human trait and reality to somehow try to find a reference point for our present experience which leads to statements like this. We indeed may not have experienced anything like this global outbreak of Covid-19 but history certainly has, and far, far worse. Wars, famines, murderous dictatorships and tyrants have wreaked so much death and destruction on the human person over the centuries that one would utterly vaporize out of fear to imagine what God has seen. The forces of nature also have claimed the lives of countless souls in time as weather and movements of the earth did not discriminate about those who would perish or suffer great loss. We, in our own personal existence in time, may not have seen anything like what we are now seeing, but the question begs to be asked, “What are we seeing?”

My own impression of the current worldwide crisis isn’t so much about a deadly virus as it is about the way we have reacted to it or for many world leaders, how they have taken advantage of it. If a person’s true nature is revealed in how they act in times of trial, fear and confusion, then I would suggest that we are not seeing a deadly outbreak of a virus so much as we are witnessing live a devastating human and even sinful response to it. The deaths of those who have succumbed to a new virus released in one way or another upon the world in the last two years are truly both devastating and grievous to those who knew and loved them. I personally have known five people who died from the Corona Virus and I saw what it did to their families and friends. These dead were part of a group whose lives were claimed by the same thing, but I also acknowledge that four of them didn’t get the virus at home or in public but in the hospitals where they were seeking treatment for some other medical condition. Each of us carries our own statistics concerning the virus and its impact on what we have seen. What we see and then hold to be true is based on the click of a mouse or a remote and so often not on what really is.

As a priest, one thing is clear in my mind which I cannot shake off: we have not listened to and are not listening to heaven.

One of the reasons I feel compelled to write this article is because of history itself. If one were to look back to this time from the vantage point of 25 or 50 years from now and somehow read this poor, insignificant bulletin article, what would they learn about the world I was living and writing in? If it were filled only with Mass intentions and the usual and expected activities of our parish community, how would someone in the future get an insight into what was happening in the world? In one way, our largely imposed isolation from one another these past eighteen months has turned us from human interaction and discussion to those places where we are fed “the news”. And what is amazing is how we are all living in the same world with the same global situation and we all see it and interpret it very differently. In the ‘information age’ there is clearly both truth and propaganda, depending on what you watch, what you listen to, what you want to hear and your overall world view. What do I see? I see God testing us, all of us. God is testing (not tempting) world leaders, citizens, scientists and doctors, healthcare workers, employers and employees, parents, teachers, priests and bishops and so-called ‘truth tellers’ in the vast world of media and communication. I see God testing me.

“Whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance...”. (James 1:2-3)

What will God find in me and what will I realize within myself as a result of this testing? That, of course, is a personal and unfolding question and reality that is dependent on my personal faith and trust in God. Yet we are not only being tested as individuals but also as the people of the earth and my overall sense of our response isn’t good.

In the midst of this testing through a world-wide outbreak of a virus, we see those who clearly and unashamedly view this as a time of opportunity, as one world leader said of it,

“This pandemic has provided an opportunity for a reset. This is our chance to accelerate our pre-pandemic efforts to reimagine economic systems that actually address global challenges like extreme poverty, inequality and climate change.”

Now if I came up with that sentence and wrote it in the bulletin now in the midst of the world’s Corona virus situation, wouldn’t it seem that I was out of touch with what my focus should be, particularly in the light of my and our relationship with God? I think so. It really comes down to this: am I in charge of all things or is God? God has all power but places the world in our hands. “Go, make disciples of all nations” is Jesus’ directive to all the baptized that we make him known one baptized person after another, which is why the Church, threatened in every age, is still here, not because of our faithfulness alone but by the design and plan of God. Yet we also know that when God tests us, as He tested Job, it is to make us stronger, wiser and better equipped to serve Him and make Him known. For, “No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Cor. 10:13) So we are being tested by God who doesn’t give us more than we can handle but enables us to “endure” it for, as the previous quote from St. James tells us, “the testing of your faith produces endurance”. Endurance here doesn’t simply imply putting-up-with our current situation but increasing through our situation our faith in the goodness and care of God. To me, much of the way this pandemic has been handled hasn’t been very godly while some have acted in ways that were very God-like.

I find it interesting that much of the outbreak and our reaction to it has focused mainly on death and an overemphasis on the body rather than the soul. Hundreds of thousands of people die from influenza (the flu) each year but we were not fearful as a province or country or the globe, of it. What is to be feared and what is to be acted upon is based solely on the total avoidance of death. Death isn’t from God but the Evil One and Jesus defeated death on Calvary’s Cross. Face it, we aren’t really interested in the deaths of human children killed in the womb, and even the staggering worldwide number of them so far this year of 31,836,400 – at the time of my writing of this bulletin article – doesn’t seem to give most people even a pause let alone a protest, yet we are greatly concerned about our own death from a virus. We will even talk of vaccinating children whom, we are told by medical experts, have effectively a 0% chance of dying of the Covidvirus. We want to be saved from death but not from sin. St. John Paul II wrote:

“There is no need to be afraid to call the first agent of evil by his name: the Evil One. The strategy which he used and continues to use is that of not revealing himself, so that the evil implanted by him from the beginning may receive its development from man himself, from systems and from relationships between individuals, from classes and nations—so as also to become ever more a “structural” sin, ever less identifiable as “personal” sin. In other words, so that many may feel in a certain sense “freed” from sin but at the same time be ever more deeply immersed in it.” (Pope John Paul II, *Apostolic Letter, Dilecti Amici*) Fr.C

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Tuesday October 5th

8:30am + Ernie St. Amour
Requested by Susan & Fred Holmes

Wednesday October 6th

7:00pm Intentions of Lorne & Betty Winkler on their 70th Wedding Anniversary
Requested by the Family

Thursday October 7th

8:30am Intentions of Hilary Als on her 80th Birthday
Requested by Susan & Fred Holmes

Friday October 1st

7:30am HOLY HOUR
8:30am Deceased Members of the Sasaki Family
Requested by the Family

Saturday October 9th

4:30pm Confession
5:15pm + Deanna Prezio
Requested by the Family

Sunday October 10th

9:00am + Steven Winkler
Requested by Mom & Dad

11:00am +Paul Gerynowicz
Requested by the Cudney Family

The Sanctuary Lamp burns In Memory of
Mel Daoust October 3rd to 9th, 2021



PLEASE PRAY for the SICK

And all those afflicted in mind,
Body and spirit, especially:



Audrey Stover, Chelsea Cando, Joe Schillaci, Dorothy
Dynes

PLEASE PRAY for the RECENTLY DECEASED



PAG – Pre-authorized automatic giving through your bank. If you are interested, please call the parish office or go to our website stmarysco.archtoronto.org. You can download a form and bring to parish office. You can donate to the regular offertory or to ShareLife through PAG



BLESS US ST. FRANCIS

**Francis of Assisi
Feast Day October 4th**
"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

~St. Francis of Assisi-



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time October 3, 2021 “Live the Gospel” on ShareLife Sunday

Today is our third ShareLife collection. Our goal this year is \$43,000.00. To date we have achieved \$31,743.00

We encourage you to give during this weekend’s special collection. You can also donate online via the parish website or at sharelife.org. By doing so, you’ll be making a real difference in the lives of poor and marginalized members of our community.

Monthly Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) is a convenient way to spread your ShareLife contribution throughout the year. Simply submit a void cheque in a ShareLife envelope to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket. Contact ShareLife at slife@archtoronto.org or 416-934-3411 if you have any questions about pre-authorized giving.

Today is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously during the special collection or anytime at sharelife.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Enjoy Bingo? The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Radio Bingo Wednesday October 20 and every Wednesday at 7 PM on local radio station MAX 97.7.FM. To get your tickets call Sal Greco at 705 888 0691 or Mike Sangregorio at 905 866 9564. All Proceeds to benefit our hospital and other local charities.

CHURCH CLEANING



Members of St. Mary’s Parish CWL are planning to do a thorough cleaning of the church on Wednesday, October 6th at 10:00 am and they’re inviting you to join in and help if you are able. Just bring your own bucket and a cloth and the various jobs will be assigned among all who come.

LIFE CHAIN



The Annual Life Chain will take place this Sunday, October 3, 2021 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

We will be meeting at Harbourview Park (Birch & First Street in Collingwood) at 1:45. This is a prayerful, silent witness for the sanctity of all human life.

We will be social distancing....please bring your mask.

Popes Intentions for October

Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

Offertory September 26th Inc
PAG \$2738.00

