

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

*Reddite quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.*—Matt 22: 21.

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## ST. MARY'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

The church is a beautiful structure, and a brief description of it will be appropriate here. The dimensions are 160 feet by 100 across the transept, and about 56 feet ordinary width. With the spire the height will be 180 feet. From the interior the church is composed of the nave, aisle, transept, and absidal chancel with adjoining chapels. The morning chapel, to the right, is fitted in the same style as the principle one, having recesses in the walls for confessionals. The nave of the main church is supported by polished granite pillars with caps of Ohio sandstone and bases of Queenston lime stone. The roof is dressed with polished pine, affording splendid acoustic properties. The design is in the gothic architecture of the Middle Ages. The church can seat 1,500 people, and is perfectly lighted, ventilated, and heated. An illuminated rood screen over the altar, surmounted with a large gothic cross supporting a representation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, each surrounded by a nimbus, embraces the inscription: *Ego sum via veritas et vita* ("I am the way, the truth and the life.")

The subjects which have been prepared for the stained glass windows are as follows:—

Sanctuary (or Chancel): Five principal tracery windows.

No. 1. (central): The Sacred Heart of our Lord and The Sacred Heart of the Blessed Virgin.

No. 2. (On Gospel side of central window): St. Joseph and our Lady of Lourdes.

No. 3. (On Epistle side do): St. Anne and St. Joachim.

No. 4. (On Gospel do): St. John and St. Elizabeth.

No. 5. (On Epistle do) St. Mary and St. Martha. In the three smaller windows, emblems of the Blessed Sacrament.

South Transept: (In the great triplet: central): The Ascension and on either side the Resurrection and the Descent of the Holy Ghost. In the two lancets in side walls: the Assumption and the Coronation.

North Transept: (central lancet:

The Crucifixion; Lancets on either side of central light: In one the Agony in the Garden and the Scourging at the Pillar. In the other the Crowning with Thorns and the Carrying of the Cross.

In the two lancets in side walls: In the East, the Annunciation and Visitation. In the West, the Nativity, the Presentation and the Finding of Our Lord in the Temple.

A resume of the stained glass window shows there will thus be represented: In the Chancel: Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, (the Holy Family) with their immediate relatives.

In the next great section of the church: the transept crossing: the chief events in the life of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin, as depicted in the mysteries of the Holy Rosary; and in the body of the church: the chief Angels and Saints, especially those most devoted to Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin.

Two of the principal stained glass windows are already in, having been donated by Mr. V. Risch and Mr. and Mrs. Canessa, and also one in body of church donated by St. Vincent de Paul Soc.

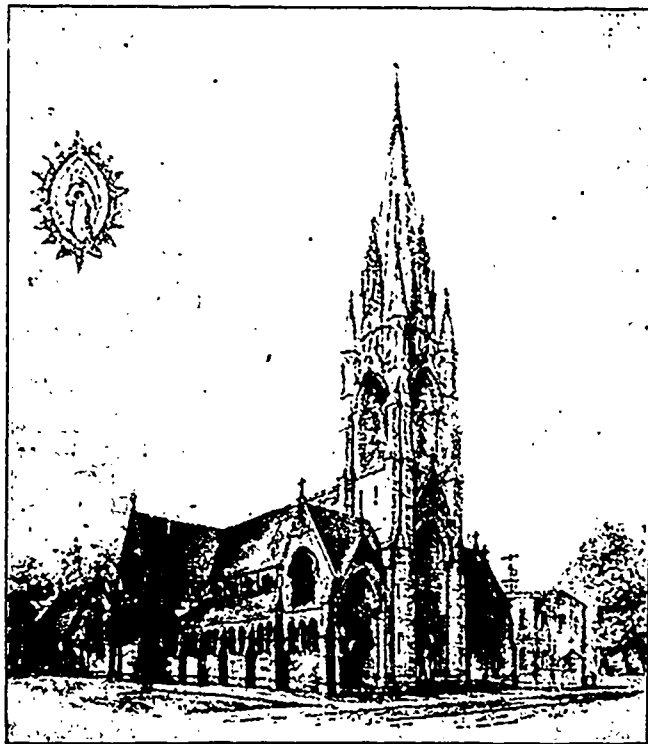
On Sunday, Feb. 17th, 1889, the new church was solemnly dedicated. Long before the hour appointed for the commencement of the ceremonies, the church was filled to overflowing, notwithstanding that it had been sought to regulate the attendance by the issue of tickets of admission. The great gathering of clergy from all parts of the Province and of the most prominent of the laity of the city, was a testimony more eloquent than words, to the high esteem in which the Very Rev. Rector of St. Mary's is everywhere held. The whole of his priestly life has been spent amongst us, the greater part of it in St. Mary's parish. He was ordained by Bishop de Charbonnel, and in the long period of thirty years and more, which has elapsed since then, Father Rooney has known no ambition save the honour of his Master and the good of the souls entrusted to his care.

For some years the old church on Bathurst st., had been totally inadequate to accommodate the large and increasing congregation, and a new and more spacious edifice was in contemplation for a long time before the work was actually begun on the present structure. Even then, various causes conspired to delay the progress of the work, but it was accomplished after several years of united effort on the part of priest and people, and its devoted pastor, Vicar-General Rooney saw the completion of this, the crowning work of his useful and laborious life.

The first church of St. Mary's was erected in 1853. Its first pastor being Father McLachlan, who was succeeded in order by Father O'Neil, and Father Louis de Lavagna (the holy Capuchin, whose remains rest under the sanctuary of the new church). Father (now Archbishop) Walsh was its next parish priest, after whom came Father Hobin, who built the first school house. Father Walsh, who in the interim had been appointed Vicar-General of the diocese, again became pastor of St. Mary's where he continued until his elevation to the episcopacy in 1868. He was followed by Father Proulx, Missionary Apostolic, and by the present incumbent, Father Rooney.

The second church was erected in 1858, and was consecrated by the late Archbishop Lynch. The sermon on that occasion was preached by the late Bishop Timon of Buffalo.

The ceremony of dedication of the present beautiful edifice was performed by His Lordship Bishop Dowling, of Peterborough, (now of Hamilton). His Lordship the Bishop of Kingston, celebrated High Mass, Very Rev. J. M. Laurent, V. G., being assistant priest; Revs. K. Campbell, of Orillia, and Davis, of Dixie, respectively deacon and sub-deacon of the Mass; Very Rev. C. Vincent, C.S.B., Provincial, and Father Gibbons, of St. Mary's, deacons of honour; and Rev. Father Finan and Mr. James Carberry, Masters of Ceremonies. There were present also in the sanctuary, His Lordship the Bishop of London; Very Rev. Dean O'Conner, of Barrie, (now Bishop of Peterborough), and a large number of clergy from various parts of the country. His Grace Archbishop Walsh preached the dedicatory sermon, which was one of the most notable and eloquent every heard within the walls of any church in Ontario.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH,  
Bathurst Street, Toronto.