

MARANATHA - It is widely noted that the word "Maranatha" was a watchword of the early church used in greetings as a prayer for the Lord to return. Maranatha is often translated as "Come, Lord" or "Our Lord, come." Its roots can be traced to the Aramaic words *maran*, meaning "Lord," and *atha*, meaning "come." Paul used this Aramaic term to say, "Come, Lord!". Therefore, using maranatha in Christian worship and prayer expresses anticipation and longing for Jesus Christ's return. Maranatha embodies Christians' hope and faith that Jesus will someday return to fulfill his promises and establish the Kingdom of God.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

Sunday, December 24, 10 am - Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24, 5 pm - Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, Dec 24, 8 pm – Christmas Midnight Mass

Monday December 25, 10 am - Christmas Day Mass

Saturday December 30, 9am - Mass

Saturday December 30, 4pm - Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday December 31, 10am - Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday Dec 31, 4pm - New Year's Eve Mass (Mary, Mother of God)

Monday Jan. 1, 10am - New Year's Day Mass (Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation).

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

SATURDAY EVENING MASS MOVED TO 4 PM - After 2 weeks of polling the parishioners regarding the potential time change of the 5 pm mass to 4 pm for the winter months, here are the results:

Keep at 5pm – 6 parishioners , Move to 4pm – 18 parishioners,

Okay either way – 14 parishioners

Based on this feedback, starting the first Saturday after Christmas, December 30th, the Saturday evening mass will be at 4pm with confessions at 3:30pm. This will be in effect until after Easter when as a parish we will decide if we want to go back to 5pm or stay at 4pm for the spring and summer months.

We know change is difficult but sometimes it is necessary. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding with these changes and hope that you continue to provide your feedback and ideas on how we can improve our parish life for everyone.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

This week we need Brown Beans, Crackers, and Sidekicks

ST.MARY'S CWL

1. Thank you to all the parishioners who have purchased raffle tickets on the CWL Christmas Angel. It is a fund raiser. All the proceeds go toward CWL church and community projects. The draw will take place on Dec.17/23.

2. The January CWL meeting will be on Jan.15/24 @ the rectory at 9:30 am. NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE.

3. A BIG THANK YOU to all parishioners who donated to the CWL Project "HELPING OTHERS". You have donated so much which so many will appreciate receiving, when St. Vincent de Paul distributes the items. The collection comes to a conclusion this weekend, Dec.17, 2023. "The Lord will smile down upon you and bless you for your act of kindness in "Helping Others".

4. The CWL Word of the Week will resume on Jan. 06/07, 2024.

5. Enjoy the festive season and take time to enjoy the splendor of Christmas.

Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Diocesan Website: www.peterboroughdiocese.org

Fr. Martin Dalida, Parish Priest

Melissa Lilje, Parish Secretary

*3rd Sunday
of Advent*

**December 16 - 17,
2023**



**"I am the voice
crying, make
straight his path"**

Parish Committees & Organisations

Parish Pastoral Council <i>Michael Mullin</i> , Chairperson	416 300-8680
Finance Committee <i>Dennis Goulin</i> , Chairperson	905 372-7684
Eucharistic Ministers <i>Judith Goulin</i>	905-372-7684
Lectors <i>Richard Holland</i>	905-349-3710
St Mary's Catholic Women's League <i>Pat Murphy</i> , President	905 349-2847
St Vincent de Paul Society	905 377-3263
Bingo-In-Charge - Jackie Innis	905-349-2880
Religious Articles - <i>Alta Vance</i>	905 344-7443

St Mary's Cemetery Board <i>Melissa Lilje</i> , Secretary	905 349-2504
Parish Library – <i>Margaret Harry</i>	289-439-0764
Development and Peace <i>Suzanne Liptay</i>	905-372-3031
Music at Mass: <i>St Mary's Choir</i> , 10 am Mass on Sunday	
CWL Diocesan website: www.peterboroughcwl.ca	
Knights of Columbus	905 349-2504
Ushers	905 349 2504
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:	905 349-2504
St. Mary's Elementary School, Grafton: <i>Angelo Costa</i> , Principal	905 349-2061
St Mary's Secondary School, Cobourg: <i>Jason Roberts</i> , Principal	905 372-4339
Catholic School Board www.pvnccdsb.on.ca	

SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY

Baptisms, Marriages, & Anointing of the Sick may be arranged by calling the Office.

Confessions: Saturday at 8:30 am & 4:30 pm, or anytime on request.

First Friday of the month - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 9am

THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17TH AT THE ALTAR

December 18, Mon. - NO MASS TODAY

December 19, Tues. 9 am

December 20, Wed. 9 am + Gay Stratford by Graham Stratford

December 21, Thurs. 9 am

December 22, Fri. 9 am Mass

4 pm - Advent Reconciliation

December 23, Sat. 9 am

December 23, Sat. 5 pm - 4th Sunday of Advent - For the People of the Parish

December 24, Sun. 10 am 4th Sunday of Advent - For Special Intention of the

De Leon Family

December 23/24	5 pm	10 am
Lectors	Jackie Innis	Joanna Mecozzi
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Greg Blick	Judith Goulin
Ushers/Greeters	Darrell Manley/ Nick Manley	Ian Manley/ Rob Ugolini

E-TRANSFERS - The Parish is able to accept e-transfers. If you forget your envelope or you are visiting and want to make a one time donation, you can log onto your mobile banking after Mass and send your donation to office@assumptiongrifton.ca. Make sure to put your envelope # or name and address in the message section of the transfer. The transfers are auto deposit so no need to set up a password.

PARISH FINANCES

	Last Weekend	Same Time Last Year
Sunday Collection	\$2,420.00	\$2,045.00
Building Maintenance	\$170.00	\$15.00
Balance	\$3,459.97	

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

ADVENT THIRD SUNDAY - The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means “rejoice”. This theme is echoed in today’s second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. Today we light the third advent candle which is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. Gaudete Sunday reminds us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the mid-point of Advent.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION - This coming Friday at 4 pm, we have invited some priests to hear our confessions. Advent is a most advantageous time to go to confession. With all that’s going on, we want to be absolutely ready to receive that little Infant Jesus. Going to confession in Advent is a beautiful way to prepare for the reception of the holy Eucharist at the Christmas Mass. Just like the body cannot live without food, the soul cannot live without grace – the presence of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit. Every confession is a fresh beginning, a new start. In confession Christ wipes away our sins, opening the door to new life with him.



LITURGICAL SENSE (What is more important – the Altar or the Tabernacle?)— They are both important. Outside of Mass (when/where there is no Eucharistic sacrifice), the tabernacle is the central focus of attention within the church. During Mass (when/where the Eucharistic sacrifice is celebrated), the altar is the central focus of attention within the church. Before and after Mass, it is appropriate to genuflect only when you enter and leave the church. During Mass however, it is appropriate to bow (each time) when passing in front of the main altar. (An exception is when the Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle after communion is over. In this case, the priest or deacon genuflects before closing the tabernacle door. He would not genuflect if he opened the tabernacle for the ciborium at the beginning of communion because the Eucharist is already present upon the altar. (Canon law 938§5)