

to help sustain and uplift our parish. Holy Season Observance: To all who devoutly observed the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas whose participation enriched our spiritual journey. Your collective efforts have truly made a difference in our community. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our parish family. We thank God for bringing us together through Jesus. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year 2024. May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace and joy and many blessings throughout the New Year. Best wishes to you all!. Fr. Martin

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

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 IS MOVED TO 4 PM - This will take effect starting Saturday, December 30th 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.

SUNDAY ENVELOPES 2024 - To those who are using Numbered Envelopes for their Sunday and Special donations, you may pick them at the church entrance.

SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE - A new permanent microphone on priest’s podium is installed, replacing the portable/handheld one. Outlets for gadgets/machine that can provide background music had been set up with the amplifier being properly readjusted. The cost of this sound system upgrade has been covered by the funds from our bingo account.

TABERNACLE PLATFORM - A heartfelt gratitude to Ed Nemeč and his grandson Garrett. They meticulously worked on the Altar platform, ensuring it is spacious enough to accommodate the Tabernacle.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

This week we need Tinned Fruits, Tuna, and Cookies

ST.MARY’S CWL

- 1.The January CWL meeting is on Jan.15/23 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!
- 2.The winning ticket for the CWL raffle of the Christmas Angel was drawn after Mass on Dec.17/23. The winner is parishioner Joanne Mecozzi. Congratulations Joanne. The angel will enjoy its new home. Thank you to all parishioners who bought tickets and made donations in support of the CWL. It is greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go toward church and community projects.
- 3.The CWL wishes Father Martin, all parishioners and all its members a very blessed Christmas. Enjoy the festive season.
- 4.Thank you to all, for your generous donations to the CWL Project “Helping Others”. All those who receive your donations, when St. Vincent de Paul distributes the items, will be so thankful!
 “May the magic and wonder of the holiday season stay with you throughout the coming year!”

Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

103 Lyle Street South. P. O. Box 239, Grafton. Ontario K0K 2G0

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Parish Email: bvm.grafton@bellnet.ca Parish Website: www.assumptiongrafton.ca

Diocesan Website: www.peterboroughdiocese.org

Fr. Martin Dalida, Parish Priest

Melissa Lilje, Parish Secretary

*4th Sunday
of Advent*

December 23-24, 2023



**“DO NOT BE
AFRAID, MARY.
YOU WILL BEAR A
SON AND CALL HIM
JESUS.”**



Parish Committees & Organisations

Parish Pastoral Council <i>Michael Mullin, Chairperson</i>	416 300-8680
Finance Committee <i>Dennis Goulin, Chairperson</i>	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, President</i>	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, Secretary</i>	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 24TH AT THE ALTAR

December 24, Sunday 5 pm - Christmas Eve Mass - For the people of the parish
 December 24, Sunday 8 pm - Midnight Mass- +John Taylor by Mom, Jamie & Family
 December 25, Monday 10 am - Christmas day Mass - +Mary Pamela Kelly by Vince
 December 26, Tues - NO MASS
 December 27, Wed 9 am - St. John the apostle
 December 28, Thurs 9 am - The Holy Innocents
 December 29, Friday 9 am
 December 30, Sat. 9 am
 December 30, Sat. 4 pm - Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph – Olaf & Deidre Arz-heimer wedding Anniversary
 Dec. 30, Sunday 10 am - Feast of the Holy Family - For the people of the parish

December 30/31	5 pm	10 am
Lectors	Paula Blick	Cathy Vasas Brown
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Sr Donna Smith	Bernadette Murray
Ushers/Greeters	Darrell Manley/ Nick Manley	Joe O’Kane/ Ed Nemec

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@assumptiongrafton.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	\$2,989.05	\$2,085.00
Building Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance	\$5,789.19	

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

ADVENT FOURTH SUNDAY - The 4th Sunday of Advent is the final week before Christmas that marks the anticipation of the birth and second coming of Jesus. The Gospel readings for this Sunday all relate to some episode that precedes Jesus' birth, such as the prophecy of Isaiah and the annunciation of Mary. Gabriel's announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary introduces the central Christian theme of the Incarnation. This event signifies God becoming human in Jesus Christ, a foundational truth of Christian belief.



BISHOP DANIEL MIEHM CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023 - An Advent season of just three weeks has not given us very much time to heed the call of St. John the Baptist to “prepare the way of the Lord.” This shortened runway has probably meant that we have been busier than ever in the lead-up to Christmas, maybe even more frazzled than usual, and not as ready spiritually as we would like to be. The Christmas rush seems to get ever more rushed, and we do our best to manage it all. What a consolation then, to remember that Christmas is not so much about what we do, but about what God has done for us. Cardinal John Henry Newman (canonized in 2019) once wrote in a sermon that the special charm of Christmas is that Christ comes to us as our guest. And in that coming, Newman notes “He brightens everything. He does not take away, he adds. He makes the world our home, for he deigns to be the light of it.” In this busy season, with all that is pressing in on us, may our hearts be attuned to Christ who comes to us as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, the Savior of the World. Let us open our hearts in welcome because, ready or not, here He comes! May His coming fill our families, churches and communities with light and joy this holy season.

THANK YOU - I extend my deepest gratitude to the individuals and groups who made the seasons of Advent & Christmas at our parish truly special: **SEWING TEAM**: Tass Corbier, Melissa Lilje, Alta Vance, Dan de Leon, and Rosemarie de Leon - for crafting all liturgical cloths (5 colors). **CRAFTMANSHIP**: Greg and Paula Blick for making me the pulpit stool. **DECORATION TEAM**: The decoration group and all contributors who adorned our church with flowers and more, creating a sacred and welcoming space. **SPECIAL MINISTRIES**: Lectors, Ushers, Extra Ministers of Holy Communion, Choir members, and others. **GENEROUS SUPPORTERS**: To everyone who generously gave their love, prayers and extra financial support