

THANK YOU - My deepest gratitude to the individuals and groups who made the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and New Year at our parish truly special: **SEWING TEAM, DECORATION TEAM, SPECIAL MINISTERS, GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS**, and to all who devoutly observed the holy seasons of Advent, Christmas and New Year 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*

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS AND MASS INTENTIONS - Parishioners who donated Christmas flowers in memory of their loved ones, please contact Fr. Martin at mobile #705-491-0825 or by email at FrMartinDalida@peterboroughdiocese.org to advise the names of your loved ones so we can mention their names at the Mass that will be offered for them in January.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners,
I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each of you. May this Christmas be filled with joy, peace, and the company of loved ones. Our shared efforts and dedication have made this year a memorable one for our parish, and I am grateful for the privilege of working alongside such a committed and passionate group of individuals. As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, let us also look forward to the opportunities that the new year will bring. May the holiday season rejuvenate our spirits and strengthen the bonds of our community. I am confident that with our collective commitment, we will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Warm regards, *Michael Mullin, Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson*

ST. VINCENT THE PAUL

This week we need Tinned Brown Beans, Tinned Fruits, and Peanut Butter

ST.MARY'S CWL

1. The January CWL meeting will be on January 15/24 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. **NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!**
2. Happy New Year to Father Martin, all parishioners and all CWL members! May you have good health, plenty of smiles and much joy! May God's love embrace you each day.

Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Tel: 905-349-2504 Fax: 905-349-1035

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

Feast of The Holy Family
December 30-31, 2023



Parish Committees & Organisations

Parish Pastoral Council <i>Michael Mullin, Chairperson</i>	416 300-8680	St Mary's Cemetery Board <i>Melissa Lilje, Secretary</i>	905 349-2504
Finance Committee <i>Dennis Goulin, Chairperson</i>	905 372-7684	Parish Library – <i>Margaret Harry</i>	289-439-0764
Eucharistic Ministers <i>Judith Goulin</i>	905-372-7684	Development and Peace <i>Suzanne Liptay</i>	905-372-3031
Lectors <i>Richard Holland</i>	905-349-3710	Music at Mass: <i>St Mary's Choir</i> , 10 am Mass on Sunday	
St Mary's Catholic Women's League <i>Pat Murphy, President</i>	905 349-2847	CWL Diocesan website: www.peterboroughcwl.ca	
St Vincent de Paul Society	905 377-3263	Knights of Columbus	905 349-2504
Bingo-In-Charge - Jackie Innis	905-349-2880	Ushers	905 349 2504
Religious Articles - <i>Alta Vance</i>	905 344-7443	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 31TH AT THE ALTAR

December 31, Sunday 4 pm - New Year's Eve - For the people of the parish
 January 1, Monday 10 am - New Year- Special intention of John & Melissa Lilje
 January 2, Tues. 9 am - No Mass Today
 January 3, Wed. 9 am
 January 4, Thurs. 9 am
 January 5, Fri. 9 am - First Friday - Benediction & Mass
 January 6, Sat. 9 am - Special intention of Noelle Manley by Ian Manley
 January 6, Sat. 4 pm - Epiphany - For the People of the Parish
 January 7, Sun. 10 am - Epiphany - + Zack Sawyer by Sawyer Family

January 6/7, 2024	4 pm	10 am
Lectors	Paige Mullin	Bernadette Murray
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Sr Donna Smith	Dennis Goulin
Ushers/Greeters	Darrell Manley/ Nick Manley	Joe O'Kane/ 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@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	\$1,429.00	\$1090.00
Christmas	\$2,700.00	\$860.00
Balance	\$7,998.46	

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - This feast day honors Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph as the holiest of families, and therefore a model for all Christians families. They were holy because they placed God at the center of their family life, they loved and sacrificed for one another, and they radiated that love to others in the redemptive mission of the Word Incarnate. This feast is not just about the Holy Family, but also about our own families. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes.

FAMILY ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS - "But the most beautiful thing that God made, the Bible says, was the family. He created man and woman, and He gave them everything. He gave them the world! Grow, multiply, cultivate the earth, make it produce, make it grow. He presented to a family all of the love that He made in this marvelous creation... All of the love that God has in Himself, all of the beauty that God has in Himself, all of the truth that God has in Himself, He gives to the family. And a family is truly a family when it is able to open its arms and receive all of this love."

NEW YEAR'S DAY - The New Year is a time of reflection and renewal for us Christians. It is a time to look back on the past year and give thanks for the blessings received, as well as to repent for any sins committed. It is also a time to look forward to the future with hope and anticipation, trusting in God's plan for our lives. The New Year is a perfect time to dig up the roots of trouble by the power of the Holy Spirit, under the assurance that honest and whole-hearted repentance leads to life and peace. Christians are enjoined to never forget what their Lord has done for them. A Christian who obtains his greatest joy from the Lord sees January 1 as a time to remember the goodness of God as it has unfolded across the past year.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS - Soon we will be preparing the income tax receipts. We have 3 envelope numbers that have actively donated but we do not have a name registered. If your envelope number is 36, 92, 114, please inform our office by calling 905-349-2504 or by sending email to bvm.grafton@bellnet.ca so that we can ensure you receive an income tax receipt for 2023.