

SUNDAYS OF ORDINARY TIME AND COLOR GREEN - Ordinary Time is a liturgical season (33 or 34 weeks) that falls outside of the major liturgical seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. During Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of Christ. The significance of Sundays of Ordinary Time is that they provide an opportunity to know Christ more intimately in the everyday realities of life. It is a time during which we can grow closer to the Lord and deepen our spiritual lives. Green is the standard color for Ordinary Time. Green symbolizes the hope and life of each new day. Ordinary Time is, for Catholics, the opportunity to allow the Lord to stir up our faith, to allow our spirits to rise and to grow in our spiritual life. The color green brings this meaning to the fore, since it is a color that evokes life and growth.

MAN'S DESIRE FOR GOD - The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for: The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists, it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator."

NEW YEAR WITH HOPE - New Year is a time to reflect on the previous year and celebrate the arrival of a new one. God knows that we all struggle with finding and holding onto hope. When we are facing tests of faith, even the strongest Christians can find it a challenge to find hope. When we need encouragement and refreshment for our soul, we can turn to these Scriptures from the Old and New Testaments that offer hope and encouragement: Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Psalm 33:18, "But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love." Roman 5:3, "But we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

ST. VINCENT THE PAUL

This week we need Spaghetti Sauce, Brown Beans & Cookies.

ST.MARY'S CWL

1. The January CWL Meeting will be on January 15/24 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. **NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE.**
2. Thank you to all members and parishioners for your donations and support in 2023! All cash donations will be used for CWL, church and community projects.
3. The CWL Word of the week is "TRUTH". We are more than sandwich makers. Yes, service is part of our ministry! We support many in sadness, friendship and celebration – but we are so much more. Did you know members of the CWL, across Canada, donate more than a million dollars to charities per year as well as thousands of volunteer hours? Thank, you CWL members!

Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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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

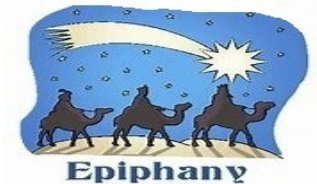
Melissa Lilje, Parish Secretary

**The
EPIPHANY
of the
LORD**

January 7, 2024



**"Where is the
CHILD born KING
of the Jews?"**



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 JANUARY 7TH AT THE ALTAR

January 8, Monday 9am - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 9, Tues. 9 am - No Mass Today

January 10, Wed. 9 am - + Stratford & Talbot Families by Graham Stratford

January 11, Thurs. 9 am

January 12, Fri. 9 am - St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

January 13, Sat. 9 am - Poinsettia Flower Donors' Intention for their +deceased loved ones

January 13, Sat. 4 pm - 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time - People of the parish

January 14, Sun. 10 am - 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time - + Zack Sawyer by Tim & Liz Gilligan

January 13/14, 2024	4 pm	10 am
Lectors	Dave Hughes	John Logel
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Paula Blick	Bernadette Murray
Ushers/Greeters	Darrell Manley/ Nick Manley	Joe O'Kane/ Ian Manley

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	\$2,155.00	\$3,614.00
Building Maintenance	\$0.00	\$542.00
New Years Day	\$972.00	\$333.00
Balance	\$7,152.17	

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world. After being made known to the shepherds, he is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East and journey to Bethlehem to adore him, the newly born Messiah. The Magi being non-Jews but Gentiles, represent the entire world in search of the Saviour. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

POINSETTIA FLOWER DONORS & MASS INTENTIONS - The Mass is scheduled on Saturday 13, 9 am. Donors of poinsettia are encouraged to attend the Mass as we offered it for their deceased loved ones.

MARILYN BARBARA HODGINS - We extend our deep sympathy to the family members of our parishioner Marilyn Hodgins, one of our shut-ins I am privileged to bring Holy Communion regularly who passed away recently.

DONATION BOXES - We had to re-assign some donation envelopes to different box numbers. If you received a new box number this year, please write your name on your envelope to ensure our records match.

ENVELOPE #92 - If your envelope number is 92, please write your name and address on the envelope so that we can ensure you receive an income tax receipt for 2023.

THE SECRETARY - Melissa will be having knee replacement surgery next week and will not be available for a few weeks. We pray for her successful surgery and speedy recovery. If you have any questions, please contact Fr Martin by his personal email or call his mobile phone 705-491-0825.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY (For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church) - "Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church. "