

practice of so-called surrogate motherhood, which represents a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child, based on the exploitation of situations of the mother's material needs. A child is always a gift and never the basis of a commercial contract," he said.

**WHY SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR CHRISTIANS & NOT SATURDAY?** - The Sabbath is on Saturday, as it was in the Old Testament and as it is observed by Jews today. Christians, though, celebrate Sunday instead, because after Jesus enunciated a new covenant, his emphasis turned to be on Sundays (first day of the week). Sunday was the day he was found to have been resurrected, and his first two appearances to the twelve disciples were on the following two Sundays. Again, Sunday was when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles (Pentecost). What Christians are celebrating instead of the sabbath is "the Lord's Day," and that has been happening since the first century. As early as the time of the apostles as testified by St. Paul, Sunday (first day of the week) became the day of worship. Paul said in the Acts of the Apostles 20:7: "On the first day of the week, when we gathered to break bread." This has been confirmed by the Fathers of the Church. In 110, St. Ignatius, bishop of Antioch and disciple of the apostle John, proclaimed: "Let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection-day, the queen and chief of all the days." Justin Martyr: "On Sunday, we meet to celebrate the Lord's supper and read the Gospels and Sacred Scripture, the first day on which God changed darkness, and made the world, and on which Christ rose from the dead." Clearly, both the Bible and the Holy Tradition confirm that Sunday is the day of worship observed since the earliest Christians.

**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.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Next meeting will be Monday, January 15, 6:30pm at the rectory.

**ST. VINCENT THE PAUL**

The St. Mary's Grafton St. Vincent de Paul would like to take this opportunity to thank MANY parishioners who contributed to our Christmas Hamper Program this year: the monetary donations, the sundries collected by the CWL, the collection at the school of hats, slippers, and mitts, and the efforts of the libraries. This help allow us to give our neighbours in need to have a very merry Christmas. What a great supportive parish! Thank you. Your SVP. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16th 1:00pm.

**ST.MARY'S CWL**

1. The January CWL meeting is on January 15/24 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.**
2. The CWL Word of the Week is **UNITY**. The core purpose of the CWL is to unite Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world. Did you know members celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the CWL in 2020? We are an organization of unified women – one voice, one heart, one mission, and there is always room for one more member.
3. Enjoy 2024 and may God bless you and keep you safe!

**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](mailto:bvm.grafton@bellnet.ca) Parish Website: [www.assumptiongrafton.ca](http://www.assumptiongrafton.ca)

Diocesan Website: [www.peterboroughdiocese.org](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org)

**Fr. Martin Dalida, Parish Priest**

**Melissa Lilje, Parish Secretary**

**2nd Sunday  
in  
Ordinary Time**

**January 14, 2024**



**"Look, here's the  
LAMB OF GOD,  
who takes away the  
sin of the world"**

**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: <a href="http://www.peterboroughcwl.ca">www.peterboroughcwl.ca</a>	
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 <a href="http://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca">www.pvnccdsb.on.ca</a>	

**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 14<sup>TH</sup> AT THE ALTAR**

January 15, Monday 9am - NO MASS TODAY

January 16, Tues. 9 am

January 17, Wed. 9 am - St. Anthony Abbot

January 18, Thurs. 9 am

January 19, Fri. 9 am

January 20, Sat. 9 am

January 20, Sat. 4 pm - 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time – People of the Parish

January 21, Sun. 10 am - 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time— + Gay Stratford by the Stratford family

January 20/21, 2024	4 pm	10 am
Lectors	Jackie Innis	Kathleen Ancker
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Pat Rutherford	Judith Goulin
Ushers/Greeters	Darrell Manley/ Nick Manley	Rob Ugolini/ 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@assumptiongrifton.ca](mailto: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

**PARISH FINANCES**

	Last Weekend	Same Time Last Year
Sunday Collection	\$2,302.00	\$2,147.00
Building Maintenance	\$295.00	\$195.00
New Years Day	\$40.00	\$0.00
Balance	\$6,830.19	

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**THE 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 gospel readings throughout this season walk us through the life of Christ, inviting immersion into his teachings, parables, way of being with humans, and way of being with God. Interestingly, Ordinary Time commences with the Gospel with John the Baptist pointing us and introduces us to Jesus saying: “Look, here’s the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” As Ordinary Time reveals Jesus to us, it calls us to adopt the ways of Jesus for ourselves and to let his life become our own. Ordinary Time provides us 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. Fr. **FR. ALLAN HOOD** - Please remember Fr Allan Hood in your prayers who passed away on Wednesday January 10, 2024. Fr. Hood was the parish priest of St. Mary’s from April 1997 until September 2008. May he rest in peace.

**THE SECRETARY** - Our parish secretary, Melissa, is having knee replacement surgery and will not be available for a few weeks. Please pray for Melissa’s successful surgery and speedy recovery. I will be taking her place until she comes back. If you have some requests, like Mass intentions or any questions, etc., you may reach me at my personal email: [FrMartinDalida@peterboroughdiocese.org](mailto:FrMartinDalida@peterboroughdiocese.org) or text me using my mobile phone #705-491-0825. Please do not use parish email as I don’t have access to it.

**POPE FRANCIS** - (On Surrogacy) Pope Francis urges worldwide ban on surrogacy, condemning 'commercialization' of pregnancy. “The path to peace calls for respect for life, for every human life, starting with the life of the unborn child in the mother’s womb, which cannot be suppressed or turned into an object of trafficking. In this regard, I deem deplorable the