

**WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL?** - On January 25, we celebrate the conversion of St. Paul, because it is, in a certain sense, the archetype of every Christian conversion. Paul did not only go from being a Pharisee to becoming a practicing and right-thinking Christian; he became a "new creation in Christ". From the moment of Paul's conversion Christ is the only thing that really mattered to him. As he said, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me". Paul arguably became the greatest evangelist in the history of the world. At least thirteen of the twenty-seven New Testament books are traditionally attributed to him, providing us with much of what we know about Jesus. Paul personally founded more than a dozen Christian communities during his missionary travels, but the members of those communities then went forth to found many more, making Paul not only a spiritual father to many early Christians but also a spiritual grandfather to countless others. He was tireless in his efforts, despite enduring much suffering: "Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fasting, through cold and exposure" (2 Corinthians 11:25-27). It's easy to see Saint Paul in the bright light of all that he accomplished. But one truth we must never forget is that he was only a man. He was a man who experienced a profound conversion and dedicated the rest of his life to the will of God. Saint Paul must be a model for each of us. As we ponder his conversion today, we think about our own conversion.

**ST. VINCENT THE PAUL**

All of us here in St. Vincent De Paul Grafton want to sincerely thank you, the many Grafton parishioners, who contribute to us each month. You are our lifeline and enable us to assist and help many in need. Please note that if you find our 2nd Sunday monthly collection not convenient, as an option there are St. Vincent envelopes at the back of the church you may use. Just put them in the collection basket and they will be given to us. Thank you again and may God Bless. Wes Krentz, SVP Pres. This week the SSVP is requesting Instant Coffee, Canned Meats & Canned Vegetables.

**ST. MARY'S CWL**

1. BILL S-210 PROTECTING YOUNG PERSONS FROM EXPOSURE TO PHONOGRAPHY ACT - The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Women's League of Canada need your help to lobby the government of Canada to pass Bill S-210: Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography. Bill S-210 would make it an offense for internet companies to allow children and young people access to sexually explicit material by requiring them to use "meaningful age verification measures" on their websites. Please sign the petition to lobby the Federal Government to adopt Bill S-210 after Mass this weekend.
2. The CWL word of the week is VISION. The CWL's envisioned future is to be an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women – inspired by FAITH. Its vision is to ensure that it remains a vital participant in the church, a valued partner for social justice, a respected advocate at all government levels, and connected to the world.
3. The next meeting of the CWL is Monday, February 5 @ 9:30 am at the rectory.

**Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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

**Fr. Martin Dalida, Parish Priest**

**Melissa Lilje, Parish Secretary**

**4th Sunday  
in  
Ordinary Time**

**January 28, 2024**



**Teaching with Authority**



**"Jesus of Nazareth,  
YOU ARE the HOLY  
ONE of GOD."**

**Parish Committees & Organisations**

Parish Pastoral Council - *Michael Mullin*, Chairperson Tel. 416-300-8680  
 Finance Committee - *Dennis Goulin*, Chairperson Tel. 905 372-7684  
 Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - *Judith Goulin* Tel. 905-372-7684  
 Lectors - *Richard Holland* Tel. 905-349-3710  
 St Mary's Catholic Women's League - *Pat Murphy*, President Tel. 905 349-2847  
 St Vincent de Paul Society - *Wes Krentz* Tel. 905 377-3263  
 Bingo-In-Charge - *Jackie Innis* Tel. 905-349-2880  
 Religious Articles - *Alta Vance* Tel. 905-344-7443  
 St. Mary Cemetery Board - *Melissa Lilje* Tel. 905 349-2504

Counters - *Wes Krentz* Tel. 905-396-2578  
 Parish Library – *Margaret Harry* Tel. 289-439-0764  
 Development and Peace - *Suzanne Liptay* Tel. 905-372-3031  
 St Mary's Choir - *Alfons Casteels* Tel 905-349-2250  
 Ushers - *Darrel Manley* Tel. 905-744-0865  
 Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Tel. 905 349-2504  
 St. Mary's Elementary School, Grafton: *Angelo Costa* , Principal Tel. 905 349-2061  
 St Mary's Secondary School, Cobourg: *Jason Roberts*, Principal Tel. 905 372-4339

**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 28TH AT THE ALTAR**

January 29, Monday 9am  
 January 30, Tues. - NO MASS TODAY  
 January 31, Wed. 9 am - St. John Bosco  
 February 1, Thurs. 9 am  
 February 2, Fri. 9 am- (First Friday, Benediction & Mass) Feast of the Presentation of the Lord  
 February 3, Sat. 9 am - Blessing of the Throats  
 February 3, Sat. 4 pm - 5th Sunday Ordinary Time (Blessing of throats) - People of the Parish  
 February 4, Sun. 10 am - 5th Sunday Ordinary Time - + Jane Boreham by Boreham family

February 3 & 4, 2024	4 pm	10 am
Lectors	Paula Blick	Kathleen Ancker
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Sr. Donna Smith	Dennis Goulin
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	\$1, 216	
Building Maintenance	\$50	
Balance	Update of the balance upon Melissa’s return	

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**COUNTERS** - While Melissa is not yet available to work in the parish office, assigned Counters of the week are kindly asked to not only count but also sort out the money offerings ready for bank deposit the next day. We thank Wes for doing the depositing.  
**USHERS & GREETERS** - I have appointed Darrell Manley to be the temporary leader of the group of Ushers & Greeters effective Saturday, January 27, 2024. If you are a member of this group, kindly send your email address to Darrell @ d.manley958@gmail.com as he will be sending you some friendly notes and updates.

**BLESSING OF CANDLES** - The Candles you are to bring on Friday, January 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, will be blessed at the 9am Mass.

**BLESSING OF THE THROATS** - On Saturday, February 3, the feast day of St. Blaise, the tradition blessing of the throats will be done at both the 9am & 4pm Masses.

**NICENE CREED & APOSTLES’ CREED** - It is very interesting to know, based on a good number of feedbacks, that many of our parishioners would love to recite the Nicene Creed during our Sunday worship while some prefer to use the Apostles’ Creed. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) allows the use of either the Nicene Creed or the Apostles’ Creed. Ultimately, the choice of which one to use is up to the discretion of the priest presiding. The Roman Missal offers the celebrant a little guidance; that is, “Traditionally, the Apostles’ Creed is used during the season of Lent, Easter Sunday at renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the two seasons of ‘Ordinary Time’ after Epiphany and Pentecost, while the Nicene Creed is traditionally used at all feast days and during the celebratory seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Easter”. I will be following the traditional way. Thus, we will be using the Nicene Creed or the Apostles’ Creed in seasons recommended above. With that, everyone will not miss his/her preferred Creed within a year.

**+ROBERT GEORGE HILL** - We extend our deep sympathy to the immediate members of the family of Bob Hill, a resident of Cobourg, for his passing last January 13, 2024. His funeral Mass is celebrated Saturday, January 27 at our Church of St. Mary’s. May he rest in peace.