

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR MASSES & ACTIVITIES

Sunday Dec 15, after 10am Mass - Church Christmas Decoration

Saturday Dec 21, 9am - Advent Confession Service

Tuesday Dec 24, 4pm - Christmas Eve Mass

8pm - Christmas Midnight Mass

Wednesday Dec 25, 10am - Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday Dec 31, 4pm - New Year's Eve Mass

Wed January 1, 10am - New Year's Day Mass

VOLUNTEERS: We need volunteers to help in setting up Christmas decorations on Sunday December 15, right after the 10am Mass.

FIRST RECONCILIATION - We are happy with the progress of the ongoing sacramental preparations for the school children this year. The children preparing for First Reconciliation will be receiving the sacrament on Friday, December 13th, at 1:30pm in the church. This will also be a beautiful opportunity for the Confirmation Candidates to set an example for the younger children by attending themselves, as it may have been some time since they last received the Sacrament.

St. VINCENT DE PAUL - As we move through Advent towards this Christmas and New Year, we would like to sincerely thank you for your unfailing financial support throughout this year. It is you who enable us to assist our less fortunate families and singles numbering over 200 this year. We do this primarily with food and grocery, gift cards, but also with rent, hydro subsidy etc. This year we see increased numbers requesting our assistance and each month we fall behind in incoming donations verses outgoing. This Christmas especially and into the new year we need your charity. If you've never or seldom donated to us, please consider. There are St Vincent envelopes at the back of the church and our next collection is Sun. Dec.8, every second Sunday of the month. However you can donate anytime throughout any month. May God Bless you with a very Merry Christmas and New Year. Grafton St Vincent De Paul.

ST MARY'S CWL

1. Membership Forms & Fees are due this weekend. If you have not handed in yours, please do so next weekend, Dec. 15/24, which is your last opportunity.
2. Pat Casteels was the winner of the CWL 2024 Raffle for the Polar Bear Family, Mother Angel and cubs Mary & Joseph.
3. The final count is in for the CWL "Helping Hands" Project. This year, you the parishioners donated 408 items compared to 266 items last year. The Lord will bless you for your act of kindness. St. Vincent de Paul will distribute the items and the recipients who receive your donations will be so thankful for your generosity.
4. Thank you to all parishioners for your ongoing support of the CWL whether it is items for Helping Others or cash donations to the CWL & its projects. St. Mary's parishioners are so generous. It is greatly appreciated.

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

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

Diocesan Website: www.peterboroughdiocese.org

Bookkeeper - Gabrielito Garcia

Fr. Martin Dalida - Parish Priest

SECOND SUNDAY ADVENT

Dec 7-8, 2024

**"PREPARE
THE WAY OF
THE LORD"**



**ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
CHURCH**

Parish Committees & Organisations

Parish Pastoral Council, *Michael Mullin*
(Chairperson)- 416 300 8680

Finance, *Alfons Casteels* - 905 269 2352

Lectors, *Joanna Mecozzi* - 905 375 9502

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion,
Judith Goulin-905 372 7684

Catholic Women's League, *Pat Murphy*
(President)-905 349 2847

Bingo Volunteers, *Jackie Innis*-905 349 2880

St Vincent de Paul, *Wes Krentz*-905 377 3263

Cemetery Board, *Francis Calnan* 905 269 0795

K of C and Ushers, *Darrell Manley*-905 744 0865

Counters, *Wes Krentz*-905 396 2578

Development and Peace/Library, *Suzanne*
Liptay-905 372 3031

St Mary's Choir, *Alfons Casteels*-905 269 2352

Altar Decorations, *Cheryl Krentz*-905 269 1950

Parish Handyman, *Ed Nemec*-905 349 2923

Religious Articles, *Alta Vance*-905 344 7443

St. Mary's Elementary School, Grafton, *Angelo*
Costa (Principal)-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 & 3:30 pm, or anytime on request.

First Friday of the month - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament @ 9am

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Dec 9, Mon 9am (Feast of Immaculate Conception of BVM)
Dec 10, Tues 9am-Thanksgiving Intention- Fr. Martin
Dec 11, Wed 9am - Souls in purgatory by Ian Manley
Dec 12, Thurs 9am
Dec 13, Fri 9am (also at 11am there's School Mass)
Dec 14, Sat 9am - Intention Gerardus Hauwert by Ian Manley
Dec 14, Sat 4pm (Third Sunday Advent) People of the parish
Dec 15, Sun 10am(Third Sunday Advent) +Colleen Lawson by Brenda Cardinal & Barbara Lefebvre

DEC 14 - 15 WEEKEND MASSES

4 pm

10 am

LECTORS

Michael Mullin

John Logel

EMHC

Deirdre Arzheimer

Judith Goulin



"FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER"
2 COR 9:7

LAST WEEKEND (Nov 30-Dec 1, 2024)

Sunday Offertory - \$3, 830

Building Maintenance - \$485

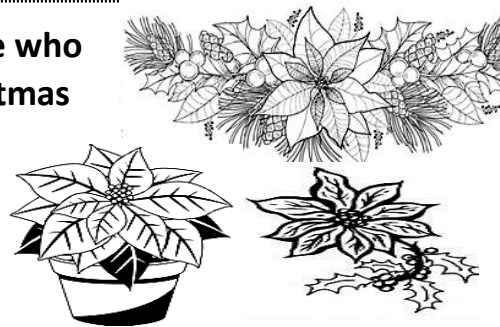
Note: no updates on parish Bank Balance as we don't receive statement reports from RBC due to Canada Post strike.



PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Eailen Fitzgerald, Dalton McDonald & Jeanie Grol

Poinsettias-Christmas Decorations: Those who wish to donate flowers towards Altar Christmas Decorations are very much appreciated. Kindly have them available before December 24th and place them at the sacristy. You can also donate in the form of cash for same decoration purposes. Thank you.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



ADVENT - At its essence, Advent embodies the timeless message of hope, peace, joy, and love, encapsulating the fundamental principles of the Christian faith. It serves as a period of spiritual preparation, inviting believers to reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation and the transformative impact of Christ's birth on humanity. Advent underscores the anticipation of the promised Messiah and the fulfillment of God's covenant with humanity. It serves as a bridge between the Old Testament prophecies foretelling the coming of the Savior and the New Testament fulfillment of these prophecies in the birth of Jesus Christ. This sacred season invites believers to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of biblical narratives, fostering a deeper understanding of the redemptive promise fulfilled through the birth of Jesus.

SUNDAY ENVELOPES - If you are using Envelopes for Sunday & Special offerings, it is now ready at the entrance. Ask Darrell or Ian Manley to assist you find your numbered envelope.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is usually celebrated by the Catholic Church on December 8. But for this year 2024 it will be transferred to December 9 because December 8 falls on Sunday which coincides with the celebration of the second Sunday of Advent. In other countries like U.S. and Philippines, the feast of the Immaculate Conception is a day of obligation. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception is the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the very moment of her conception. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma through the papal bull "Ineffabilis Deus"(Ineffable God).

THE YEAR OF THE JUBILEE 2025. In the Catholic Church, the concept of Jubilee or 'Holy Year' is used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation. "Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year, a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of Creation. Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope," and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis. The Jubilee begins on December 24, 2024, with the official Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica, and runs to January 6, 2026, the Feast Day of Epiphany, with the Closing of the Holy Door.

POPE FRANCIS (Finding Peace through Prayer & Fasting) - "People today do not know how to find peace. As Christians, we must never tire of imploring peace from God. That is why I have urged everyone to observe a day of prayer and fasting. Prayer and fasting are the weapons of love that change history, the weapons that defeat our one true enemy: the spirit of evil that foments war, because it is *"murderous from the beginning", "a liar and the father of*