

**150 ANNIVERSARY Updates/9-DAY NOVENA MASSES**

**Saturday Aug 9, 4pm-** Invited Priest: ?, Sponsor: Pastoral Council

**Sunday Aug 10, 10am-** Invited Priest: ?, Sponsor: St. Mary’s CWL

**Monday Aug 11, 9am-**Invited Priest: Fr. Charles Orchard, Sponsor: ?

**Tuesday Aug 12, 7pm-**Invited Priest: Fr. Craig Cruikshank, Sponsor: ?

**Wednesday Aug 13, 9am-**Invited Priest: Fr. Peter Seabrook, Sponsor: St. Vincent de Paul

**Thursday Aug 14, 7pm-**Invited Priest: Fr. Luis Lapinid, Sponsor: Friends of Fr. Henry

**Friday Aug 15, 7pm-**Invited Priest: Fr. Ace Podelino, Sponsor: Couples for Christ, Cobourg

**Saturday Aug 16, 11am** (cemetery Mass)-Invited Priest: Fr. Ace Podelino, Sponsor: St. Mary’s School

**Sunday Aug 17, 10am-** Celebrant: Bishop Daniel Miehm, Sponsor: Knights of Columbus

**DEVELOPMENT & PEACE** - (Who Owes Whom?) Countries in the global south face crushing debt payments that keep them from investing in their people. At the same time, countries in the global north owe them an ecological debt for exploiting their resources and destroying their environments. This destruction drives climate change, which most adversely affects society in the Global South that are least responsible for it. Pope Francis calls our attention to this injustice in *Laudatory Si*. We believe that recognizing ecological debt is vital step toward addressing the global debt crisis, and creating a sustainable, just future for all.

**NEW STATISTICS REVEAL GROWING CATHOLIC POPULATION** - The global Catholic population increased by 1.15% between 2022 and 2023, rising from approximately 1.39 billion to 1.406 billion. Africa includes 20% of the Catholics of the entire planet and is characterized by a highly dynamic spread of the Catholic Church. With a growth of 0.9% over the biennium, the Americas consolidate their position as the continents to which 47.8% of the world's Catholics belong. Of these, 27.4% reside in South America (where Brazil, with 182 million, represents 13% of the world total and continues to be the country with the highest concentration of Catholics), 6.6% in North America, and the remaining 13.8% in Central America. The Asian continent records a growth of Catholics of 0.6% over the biennium, and its weight in 2023 is around 11% of the global Catholic population. In 2023, 76.7% of Southeast Asian Catholics are concentrated in the Philippines, with 93 million, and in India, with 23 million.

**ST MARY’S CWL** - 1.The next CWL meeting is on April 07/25 @ 9:30 am at the rectory. 2. Continue your prayers for Pope Francis whose health is improving, but the Pontiff still needs your prayers as he faces ongoing health issues. 3.The CWL Word of the Week is "PURPOSE". Faith, Service and Social Justice are the cornerstones of the CWL. They give purpose to our lives. 4. ST. MARY'S CWL PARKING LOT YARD SALE will be held in mid-June. Please set aside (at home) any items that you would like to donate to the sale. Remember NO GAS driven equipment. There will be more information over the next few weeks. All proceeds will be used for CWL, church and community projects. 5. Peterborough CWL Diocese Convention: May 2-3/25 in Lindsay at St. Mary's Church and School. Poster on bulletin board in foyer with more information. Registration deadline is March 31/25.

**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: [office@assumptiongrafton.ca](mailto:office@assumptiongrafton.ca) Parish Website: [stmarygrafton.ca](http://stmarygrafton.ca)

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

**Bookkeeper - Gabrielito Garcia**

**Fr. Martin Dalida - Parish Priest**

**3rd SUNDAY  
OF LENT  
March 22-23, 2025**



**Parish Committees & Organizations**

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  
KC 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*  
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, Jill Barker- 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**

March 24, Mon - NO MASS  
March 25, Tues 9am (Annunciation of the Lord)  
March 26, Wed 9am  
March 27, Thurs 9am  
March 28, Fri 9am (Mass & Stations of the Cross)  
March 29, Sat 9am  
March 29, Sat 4pm (4th Sunday Lent) - For the people of the parish  
March 30, Sun 10am (4th Sunday Lent) +Peter H.W. Bridge by family

**March 29 –30 WEEKEND MASSES**

	4 pm	10 am
<b>LECTORS:</b>	Jackie Innis	Joanna Mecozzi
<b>EMHC:</b>	Deirdre Arzheimer	Bernadette Murray
<b>USHERS:</b>	Darrell & Nick Manley	Ian Manley & Joe O’ Kane



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


**Last Week - March 15-16, 2025**  
Sunday Offering - 1, 285  
Window Repairs - \$1, 015 (total: \$3, 515)



**PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY**  
Gladys Leclerc, John Calvert, Eailen Fitzgerald,  
Dalton McDonald

**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

APRIL 12 – SATURDAY (PALM SUNDAY, 4PM)  
APRIL 13 – SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY, 10AM)  
APRIL 17 - HOLY THURSDAY (MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER, 7PM)  
APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY (CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S PASSION, 2:30PM)  
APRIL 19– SATURDAY (LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE & CONFESSION, 9am)  
APRIL 19 - SATURDAY (EASTER EVE, 7pm)  
APRIL 20 - SUNDAY (SUNDAY OF EASTER, 10am)





*Pray for Health Recovery of Pope Francis*

**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK**

**LENT** - “The spiritual meaning of Lent is a profound 40-day journey of introspection, renewal, and spiritual growth, culminating in the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Rooted in early Christian practices, Lent is a time for spiritual fasting and detox, cultivating mindful eating habits and a greater appreciation for life's simplicity. Through prayer, reflection, and repentance, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their relationship with a higher power. By embracing solitude, seeking forgiveness, and letting go of negative patterns, one can connect with Jesus' journey, drawing closer to God and their true self, and discovering a profound sense of purpose and transformation that extends far beyond the Lenten season. As you navigate this transformative period, the possibilities for spiritual growth, renewal, and connection are endless.”

**THE SIGN OF THE CROSS** - The sign of the cross began to be used by Christians as early as the second century AD. Here are a few testimonies of the early Church Fathers on the Sign of the Cross: Tertullian (160 AD) “At every going in and out, when we put on our clothes and shoes, when we bathe, when we sit at table, when we light the lamps, on couch, on seat, in all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign of the cross.” Athanasius (296 AD)- “But we by the mention of Christ crucified put all demons to flight, whom you fear as if they were gods. Where the sign of the Cross is, magic is weak and witchcraft has no strength.” Jerome (347 AD)- “In every act we do, in every step we take, let our hand trace the Lord's cross.” Ephraim (306 AD)- “Whether in eating or in drinking, whether in sleeping or in waking, neglect not this sign of the cross; for there is no guardian like it. And teach this to thy children, that heedfully they be conformed to it.” Cyril (315 AD) “Let us not then be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Be the Cross our seal made with boldness by our fingers on our brow, and on everything; over the bread we eat, and the cups we drink; in our comings in, and goings out; before our sleep, when we lie down and when we rise up; when we are in the way, and when we are still.”

**CAPTURING THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH** - Our parish is a place of faith, community, and service, and we want to celebrate that vibrancy. The bishop encourages all parishes in the diocese to ensure their websites are welcoming and engaging, as they serve as an important means for people to connect and find the information they need. To help showcase the life of our faith community, you may occasionally see Fr. Martin taking photos at parish events, gatherings, and even while celebrating Sacraments (yes, it can feel a bit awkward!). These images allow us to share the joy and mission of St. Mary’s both within our parish and beyond. We also understand that some parishioners may have concerns about privacy. If you prefer not to be photographed, please feel free to reach out to Fr. Martin or me. Our goal is to ensure that everyone feels comfortable while also capturing the spirit of our parish life. Thank you for being part of our faith family and for all the ways you contribute to making St. Mary’s a welcoming and thriving community. *Michael Mullin -PPC Chair*

