

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

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. A big thank you to CWL member Pat Nemec and husband Ed who decorated the urns at the front entrance of the church for Christmas. They are a beautiful welcome to all parishioners.

2. The potluck last Sunday was a great success. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all. The CWL was happy to assist the Church Council in welcoming parishioners to a most enjoyable meal.

3. If you are a CWL member who has not handed in your Membership forms and fees, please do so as soon as possible. Just place them in the offertory basket at church during Mass. Please address the envelope to the CWL.

NATIVITY SCENE (What a Nativity at Christmas mean for us) - This cherished scene

reveals the striking paradox of God, which Christmas proclaims. God, who is Most High, Omnipotent, Powerful, and Distant comes to earth. God, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us, wraps himself in who and what we are — our experiences, our struggles, our joys, our anxieties, our accomplishments. A very odd kind of God in this way, remarkable and fantastic, with no equal in the cosmos. A God who takes shape as a vulnerable infant, in need, in weakness. A God who says to us, "I will not leave you orphaned, abandoned, alone, but I will carve you on the palm of my hand. I will gather you under my wings as a mother hen does with her chicks."



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

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

THIRD SUNDAY ADVENT (GAUDETE)

Dec 14-15, 2024



"TEACHER,
WHAT SHOULD
WE DO?"



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 16, Mon - No Mass
 Dec 17, Tues 9am -
 Dec 18, Wed 9am -
 Dec 19, Thurs 9am -
 Dec 20, Fri 9am -
 Dec 21, Sat 9am - No Mass, instead Advent Penitential Service
 Dec 21, Sat 4pm (4th Sun. Advent) For Children of Gaza by Deirdre Arzheimer
 Dec 22, Sun 10am(4th Sun. Advent) For Birthday Intention of Frances Mensen by Mensen family

DEC 21 - 22 WEEKEND MASSES

	4 pm	10 am
LECTORS	Jackie Innis	Joanna Mecozzi
EMHC	Pat Rutherford	Bernadette Murray
USHERS	Darrell & Nick Manley	Ian Manley & Joe O’Kane

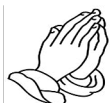


LAST WEEKEND (Dec 7- 8, 2024)

Sunday Offertory - \$1, 305

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

PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



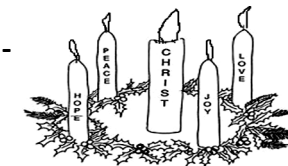
**Marilyn Cerveney, Eailen Fitzgerald,
Dalton McDonald & Jeanie Grol**

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.

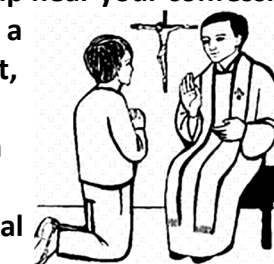


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

ADVENT - (Third Advent Gaudete Sunday) -The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice. On Gaudete Sunday of Advent we are invited to reflect on the joy we have access to because of our faith in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their joyful demeanor. Let's not allow the struggles of this year steal from the great joy we have because of Jesus. Philippians 4:4-5 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." The lighting of Rose Candle in advent wreath today symbolizes that joy in our heart.



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE - We have invited some priests to help hear your confession on Saturday December 21 at 9am. Every confession is a fresh beginning, a new start. As the prophet Isaiah puts it, "Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow." During Advent we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ, when he will return at the end of time, preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him. We remember Christmas, we await the glorious return of Christ, and also our personal encounter: the day in which the Lord will call.



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.

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.

CANADA'S NEW CARDINAL (Cardinal Frank Leo) - Twenty-one men are being created Cardinal Saturday 7th December held in St Peter's Basilica. Among them is Archbishop Frank Leo, of Toronto, Canada – who, at 53 years old, will become one of the youngest members of the College of Cardinals. Asked about some of the biggest challenges facing the Church today, Cardinal Leo listed secularism, political polarization & throwaway culture. The Church's response to the problems, he said, must "start from the human heart", and our relationship with God: we need a "spiritual awakening", one that inspires us to "bring the newness of life, of God, into the world today."

