

BISHOP DANIEL MIHM - It was a busy Christmas season. Around the Diocese, with crowds of worshippers attending our churches in good numbers. Sincere thanks to all the staff and volunteers of our parishes who worked hard over Christmas to welcome people and to celebrate the Birth of our Lord with festivity and joy. The season is now winding down and wraps up formally with the Sunday's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord today

ST VINCENT DE PAUL, GRAFTON - Thank You for Making Christmas Brighter! A heart-felt THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas Hamper Program such an incredible success! With your generous support, we were able to serve 45 families, including 81 adults and 67 children, for a total of 148 individuals. From the volunteers who packed and delivered hampers, to those who donated food, gifts, or funds—every contribution made a difference. You've brought joy, hope, and love to so many this holiday season. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful New Year! St. Vincent De Paul.

- ST MARY'S CWL** - 1.The CWL Word of the Week is OUTREACH. "For it is in giving that we receive." Members of the CWL strive to reach out to those in NEED.
2. A special thank you to all parishioners who have supported the CWL throughout 2024
3. The CWL could not do what it does, without your assistance. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
4. The next CWL meeting will be Feb. 03/25 @ 9:30 am at the rectory.
5. Members who have paid their membership fees with a cheque, they will be cashed before the end of January. Sorry for the delay, but because of the postal strike an extra month was needed for mail ins to arrive to the CWL Council.

GAZA DEATH TOLL TOPS 46,000 - According to the Ministry of Health, at least 46,006 people have been killed and 109,378 wounded since the war began 15 months ago. UN humanitarians claim that Israel has ordered more civilians to relocate in North Gaza because of impending attacks in retaliation for rocket attacks into Israel. Most civilians in the enclave, already displaced multiple times, are often forced to up-sticks amid concentrated bombardment. Elsewhere, Hamas has confirmed that indirect negotiations with Israel have resumed in Qatar, with the aim of achieving a total ceasefire in the Gaza strip.

POPE FRANCIS - The pope has called for a "negotiation" to end the war in Ukraine in a Christmas Day message where he appealed for weapons to be laid down in global conflicts and reconciliation between enemies. "May the sound of arms be silenced in war-torn Ukraine!". "May there be the boldness needed to open the door to negotiation and to gestures of dialogue and encounter, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace." "I think of the Christian communities in Israel and Palestine, particularly to the dear community in Gaza". "May there be a ceasefire, may the hostages be released and aid be given to the people worn out by hunger and by war."

Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Bookkeeper - Gabrielito Garcia

Fr. Martin Dalida - Parish Priest

**THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD**

January 11–12, 2025



**"HE WILL BAPTIZE
YOU WITH THE HOLY
SPIRIT AND FIRE"**



CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM

**WEEKEND
MASSES**

**SATURDAY
4PM**

**SUNDAY
10AM**

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
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

Jan 13, Mon (NO MASS)
Jan 14, 9am Tues
Jan 15, Wed 9am
Jan 16, Thurs 9am
Jan 17, Friday 9am
Jan 18, Sat 9pm
Jan 18, Sat, 4pm (2nd Sunday Ordinary) - For the people of the parish
Jan 19, Sun 10am (2nd Sunday Ordinary)

Jan 18-19 WEEKEND MASSES

	4 pm	10 am
LECTORS:	Dave Hughes	Kathy Ancker
EMHC :	Paula Blick	Judith Goulin
USHERS:	Darrell & Nick Manley	Joe O’Kane & Rob Ugoloni



LAST WEEKEND (Jan 5, 2025)

Sunday Offertory - \$1, 615
New Year Offering - \$55
Building maintenance - \$380

PRAY FOR THE SICK MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



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

The Jubilee Prayer

“Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen”.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

FEAST OF BAPTISM OF THE LORD - In the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord signifies the end of the Christmas season. The Baptism of the Lord is notable because it marks the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. Christ’s baptism remarkably shows all three Persons of the Trinity at the same time: the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending, and the Father speaking from the heavens. In this event, the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the deity of Christ, and Jesus submits to his Father’s will. When Jesus comes to John, John hesitates to baptize him. Why does Jesus insistent to get baptized? John’s is a baptism of repentance, and Jesus has nothing for which he needs to repent. But by choosing to be baptized, Jesus fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us. Drawing profound parallels between Jesus’ baptism and our own, we can see that, just as Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son so, too, we receive a new identity in baptism as adopted children of the Father. At the moment of our spiritual rebirth in the font, the Father beholds us with delight, exclaiming, “This is my beloved son, this is my beloved daughter with whom I am well pleased.”



ENVELOPE #66 - For the issuance of Tax Receipts, I need to know who used Envelope # 66 last year 2024. If you are the one, let me know asap (Fr. Martin). Also, I am calling everyone to please write your name in your new envelope 2025 at least for 2 Sundays as a way of confirming that such envelope with its corresponding number belongs to you.

CHRISTMAS SEASON - According to the norms issued by the Church, “The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.” Hence, today’s weekend of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord does mark the definitive end of the Christmas liturgical cycle.

THE INDEFECTIBILITY OF THE CHURCH - By the indefectibility of the Catholic Church is meant that the Church, as Jesus Christ founded it, will last until the end of time. Archangel Gabriel told Mary, that Christ “shall be king over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1: 32). Christ meant His Church to endure to the end of the world. It is to be indestructible and unchanging, - to possess indefectibility. Christ, God Himself, could scarcely have come, and with such incredible pain and labor have founded a Church which would die with the Apostles. He came to save all men. Those to live in future ages needed salvation as much as the people of Apostolic times. After telling His Apostles to teach all nations, Christ said: "Behold, I am with you until the end of time" (Mat 28:20). As the Apostles were not to live to the end of the world, Christ must have been addressing them as representatives of a perpetual Church.

